Thomas A. Edison Papers Digital Edition

Edison-Miller Family Records

Family Records Series, Part V

[F5D11-F] Oeser, Marion Edison and Oscar (1911-1932)

Family Records Series -- Charles Edison Fund Collection -- Edison-Miller Family Papers

Title
[F5D11-F] Oeser, Marion Edison and Oscar (1911-1932)

Description
The selected items in this folder cover the years 1911-1932. They consist primarily of correspondence from Marion Estelle Edison to her father, Thomas A. Edison, and her stepmother, Mina Miller Edison. Included are letters referring to Edison's financial support of Marion, who lived in Germany from the 1890s until 1925. The letters also discuss the social, political, and economic conditions in Germany and Switzerland during World War I and its aftermath, Marion's acrimonious divorce from Oscar after the war, and her concern about the state of Edison's business affairs during the 1920s. In addition, there are letters relating to Marion's 1927 appendectomy and hospital stay, paid for by her father, and her 1930 trip to Florida, where she spent two days with Thomas and Mina. A letter from 1932 discusses the bitter feelings among the Edison children after the reading of his will.

URL

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Identifier

F5D11-F

Type

Family Records

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Family Records Series -- Charles Edison Fund Collection -- Edison-Miller Family Papers

Alternative Title

Oeser, Marion Edison and Oscar (1911-1932)

Has Version

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[F5D11AA], Letter from Marion Estelle Edison to Thomas Alva Edison, June 6th, 1911

Title
[F5D11AA], Letter from Marion Estelle Edison to Thomas Alva Edison, June 6th, 1911

Author
Edison, Marion Estelle

Recipient
Edison, Thomas Alva

Mentioned

- Cadillac (Automobile)
- Oeser, Karl Oscar
- Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)

Date
1911-06-06

Type
Letter

Subject

- Edison-Miller family
- Travel (TAE and family)
- Automobiles and trucks

Folder ID
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285:2

Document ID
F5D11AA

URL
https://edisondigital.rutgers.edu/document/F5D11AA

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Timestamp
6 June 1911

Has Version
Archive.org Viewer, Microfilm Series Reel 285

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Our bungalow
Eichwald-on-the Rhine
6-6-11.

My darling Father,

We are always happy but our happiness has risen somewhere about fifty degrees since we received a letter from Lieutenant Schierbrand saying that you plan to come over to Germany this summer. Now you couldn't be so heartless as to disappoint us. Please do not let anything prevent your coming. Just pack up as soon as possible before the heat

12-6591

has taken all the starch and energy out of you. I know how it is with us. We make a lot of plans for the summer as soon as the spring shows up and then when the hot days come we give them up and simply come out here to keep cool. Oscar has begun to take English lessons so that he can be able to understand you when you come. We have never spoken English together. It seems so natural to speak the language of the country in which you are living. If we had had children I would have insisted upon English being spoken as it would have been such an advantage to them later in life. Of course you intend coming to Milhausen, don't you? Of

course we could meet you[3] anywhere you wish but I sleep so badly in hotels that I travel as little as possible. It seems queer but I have noticed that after a... motor ride in the evening I sleep very good. Perhaps it cools my head. Our Cadillac still behaves itself very good only that the repairs are rather appalling. We almost never take a ride without something getting out of order so that it costs much more to keep than it did the first years we had it. Well I dont suppose years improve... any of us. Please ask Nina to let me know as soon as you have any settled plans. In case you do not let us know[4] and when you arrive in Mülhausen and find our apartment closed, just come out here to Eichwald. It is hardly a half hours ride in a motor cab and we are sure to be here if not in Mülhausen. Please, please do not disappoint us, we can hardly wait for the time to come. Oscar joins me in sending our love to all at home

Lovingly

Marion.

Aufwiedersehen!

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[F5D11AC], Letter from Karl Oscar Oeser to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, September 26th, 1911

Title
[F5D11AC], Letter from Karl Oscar Oeser to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, September 26th, 1911

Author
Oeser, Karl Oscar

Recipient
Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)

Mentioned

- Edison, Marion Estelle
- Edison, Thomas Alva

Date
1911-09-26

Type
Letter

Subject

- Edison-Miller family
- TAE personality and character
- Travel (TAE and family)

Folder ID
F5D11-F

Microfilm ID
285:4

Document ID
F5D11AC

URL
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Timestamp
26 September 1911

Has Version
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HOTEL „STADT BERLIN“

Neumarkt — an der Frauenkirche

FERNSPRECH-ANSCHLUSS No. 1451.

Im Zentrum aller Sehenswürdigkeiten, 2 Minuten vom Dampfschiff-Landungsplatz — 8 Minuten vom Hauptbahnhof — Elektr. Straßenbahn No. 16, vom Hauptbahnhof direkt bis zum Hotel.

60 Fremdenzimmer
Separate Saallokalitäten für Festlichkeiten und Festtafeln
Konferenzzimmer
Ausstellungszimmer
Schreibzimmer, Bäder
Behagliches Restaurant mit anerkannt vorzügl. Küche
Zentralheizung
Elektrisches Licht
Auto Garage — Lift.

Dresden-A., den 26. 9. 1911.
Neumarkt

My dearest Mother Edison,

It was the most disagreeable day, that we have had for a long time, when we must leave you - and Marion and I we were feeling very sorry on account ~~living~~ without you and the family. You wrote that you were hoping, that I would love all of the family, and I told then to Marion - I am sure that I love them all, feeling it before I saw you. But now I have the impression as if we had been together long time ago and the separation was the (awfullest) most awful thing, I was feeling. I hope we shall see each-other soon and I think you must have also a little sympathy for me, otherwise you would not be able to be so kind to me and to have spoiled me so much. I was feeling it so often and I saw it in your eyes and always I shall do everything to be worthy of all your goodness and sympathy.

We found my mother very sad, she was glad to have received your dear letter. Marion and I translated

12 - 6646

it for her and she shall keep the original and the translation and asked us to give you her best thanks for your kind words. My thoughts are always with you in Berlin and the other places and I hope you had not too much troubles the last days in Germany. Of course you must endure many unpleasant hours, when people are too much ~~em~~ boring you, but father is a hero of spirit and people wish to show their gratefulness for the numberless benefits, which they got through him and his works.

This letter is written to wish you a pleasant journey over the ocean and we hope that you will arrive safely home.

We thank you and father from our hearts for all goodness to us. With love to you both not forgetting the children I am as ever

Your affectionated and grateful

Oscar.

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[F5D11AD], Letter from Marion Estelle Edison to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, October 17th, 1911

Title
[F5D11AD], Letter from Marion Estelle Edison to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, October 17th, 1911

Author
Edison, Marion Estelle

Recipient
Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)

Mentioned

- New York World
- Rathenau, Emil
- Fodor, Etienne de
- Edison, Madeleine
- Edison, Theodore Miller
- Sloane, John Eyre
- Edison, Thomas Alva
- Valentine, Edward Abram Uffington

Date
1911-10-17

Type
Letter

Subject

- Edison-Miller family
- TAE opinions and prejudices
- Newspapers, books, other publications

Folder ID
F5D11-F

Microfilm ID
285:6

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F5D11AD

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Timestamp
17 October 1911

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Eichwald-on-the-Rhine
17-10-11.

My dear Nina,

First of all I want to thank you for your two lovely letters also for so kindly sending me my mail. Several officers called at the Adlon, everyone thought we must be there with you until your pictures appeared in the papers without us. The few weeks since we parted has been a great contrast to our lovely trip together. I have almost never been so watched

12-05-01

in all my life. I suppose you know of the trouble Mr. Valentine has made for us. The moment I read his article I knew what was coming and I did not have to wait long. There was such a storm that in a moment of anger I seemed to have an inspiration and wrote an article to one of the best daily papers which was published at once in Berlin and copied in almost all the other papers all over the Empire. The first telegrams of congratulations came from Berlin friends and the first arrived before I knew that my article had been printed. Oscar had to do a lot of correcting but the last part of my letter where

I gave the reporters a nice little blow off he left exactly as I had written it and I had the laughers all on my side. The papers which brought out Mr. Valentine's article first not only had the grace to copy my article in full but said that they had thought from the first that there had been some mistake somewhere. They paid me too the very highest compliment about my article. Oscar is furious and says that the best thing Mr. Valentine could do, would be to blow his brains out; he would probably think differently about it if his brains were to have the shooting party. I will enclose a short letter from Mr. v. Fodor. I

sent him some of the awful articles and what I wrote as I wanted to hear his opinion. You can see what he thinks of Mr. Valentine. Mr. v. Fodor wrote an article about Father in German which appeared in a Budapest papers which was capital. No gushing but plain facts, just as I think Father would like to have had it. Even if he did try to advertise himself, he was a good friend and a sensible one if Mr. V. had tried to write any harmful trash in Hungary Mr. von Fodor would have been there to save the day. You remember I told you that army people are not supposed to move in such circles as the Rothenau's etc. The subject was brought up in a law suit the other day and shows

several photographs which will interest you so I will send them along as soon as I get back to Müllhausen. You ought to see how my mail matter has increased since my article appeared. Letters of sympathy, letters of congratulations, begging letters, letters from fake inventors, letters from papers wishing for articles about Father etc. etc. I hope soon to get back to my old peaceful oblivion otherwise I would have to look about for a secretary so that I could attend to my other duties. I suppose you were all happy to get home again, particularly Madeleine and Theodore. Glenmont is such a lovely home, it is no wonder that they are fond

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that our impression is right although of course there is no law, at least no written one, forbidding officers to associate with that class of people. In the law suit it was mentioned that a colonel had forbidden his regiment to accept invitations to the house of a very rich jewish family in Berlin the Wertheims. Of course the Rathenaus etc were brought into the articles about Father. They were spoken of very slightingly, saying that every one knows their past and that if Father had called the Germans dishonest in their business methods, he must have received the impression from them. We have

5

of it. Still I think it is a pity that you could not persuade Madeleine to remain over here for the winter. If anything could have gotten her mind off of John, it would be to have thrown her constantly with our young lieutenants. I thought of it the other evening when a lot of them were with us. They are so full of life and energy and so stunning in their uniforms that if Madeleine had seen much of them she could not have helped comparing John to them when she returned home and she might have been brought to see that perhaps her choice is not a wise one. She could have had as much dancing too as

she wanted and everybody would have done all they could to make her happy. The men have tried to tease me; they say that if I had chaperoned Madeleine to balls and dances that I would all at once advance to the rank of "Ball Mother" and have to sit quietly with the other sufferers. Please show this letter to Father as it is meant for him too. I meant to write him extra but I have so many letters to write and I have written everything in this letter which would be of the slightest interest to him. I am afraid I did not half thank him for all his kindness to us. We will never forget how dear you were to us too. Oscar joins me in sending love to you all. Affectionately Marion.

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[F5D11AD1], Letter from Marion Estelle Edison to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, 1911

Title
[F5D11AD1], Letter from Marion Estelle Edison to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, 1911

Editor's Notes
Supplied year

Author
Edison, Marion Estelle

Recipient
Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)

Mentioned
Oeser, Karl Oscar

Date
1911-00-00

Type
Letter

Subject

- Edison-Miller family
- Travel (TAE and family)

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1 January 1911

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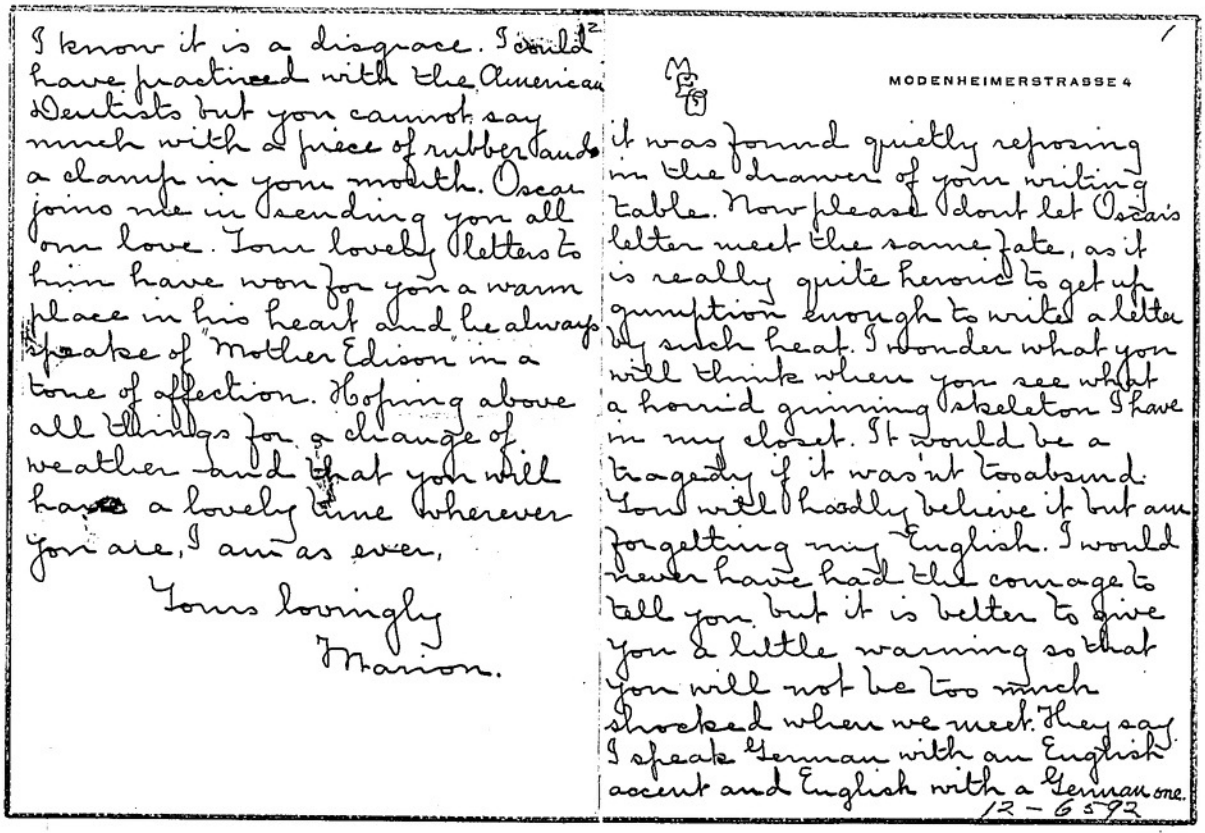

I know it is a disgrace. I could have practised with the American Dentists but you cannot say much with a piece of rubber and a clamp in your mouth. Oscar joins me in sending you all our love. Your lovely letters to him have won for you a warm place in his heart and he always speaks of "Mother Edison" in a tone of affection. Hoping above all things for a change of weather and that you will have a lovely time wherever you are, I am as ever,

Yours lovingly
Marion.

1

MODENHEIMERSTRASSE 4

it was found quietly reposing in the drawer of your writing table. Now please don't let Osca's letter meet the same fate, as it is really quite heroic to get up gumption enough to write a letter by such heat. I wonder what you will think when you see what a horrid grinning skeleton I have in my closet. It would be a tragedy if it was'nt too absurd. You will hardly believe it but am forgetting my English. I would never have had the courage to tell you but it is better to give you a little warning so that you will not be too much shocked when we meet. They say I speak German with an English accent and English with a German one.

12 – 6 5 92

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[F5D11AE], Letter from Marion Estelle Edison to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, January 19th, 1912

Title
[F5D11AE], Letter from Marion Estelle Edison to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, January 19th, 1912

Author
Edison, Marion Estelle

Recipient
Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)

Mentioned

- Edison (Thomas A.) Inc
- Fodor, Etienne de
- Miller, Harry Frederick
- Edison, Madeleine
- Miller, Mary Valinda (Mrs Lewis)
- Oeser, Karl Oscar
- Edison, Thomas Alva

Date
1912-01-19

Type
Letter

Subject

- Edison-Miller family
- TAE personality and character
- Finances (TAE and family)
- Visual arts
- Financial operations (companies and organizations)
- Health and medicine
- Military

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Müllhausen

MOSENHEIMERSTRASSE 4

19-1-12

My dear Nina,

If I could only keep my writing down to this size I would only need about half as much writing paper in a year as I do when I write the size which comes natural to me. Otherwise it is a very good thing when I have nothing or little to write to be able to spin a few words out to a four fraged letter. I hope that this letter will not turn out half as tired and sleepy as I feel. Last evening we gave a dinner and two of the men remained until 5,45 o'clock this morning! Sometimes some of the owls (there are lots of them among the officers) come home with Oscar at all hours of the night or morning and make me get up. If I strike they almost pound the door down so I get up to have peace as I am afraid of their disturbing our neighbors. The cap Madeleine made me is a blessing on such occasions as a badly dressed head looks quite presentable under the lace and tulle. The men call these

12-6507

nightly visits American call-[3] ing hours but I have told them that not even our Indians are so uncivilized. Usually I dread a day alone but now I am glad to have a quiet time after such a noisy night. It seems almost like a treat. I am so glad to see from your letter that Grandmother is out of danger. Please give her a heart full of love from me if you are in Akron and tell her how happy I was to hear that she is so much better. I wonder why the doctors did not set her hip. She can live still many years. I often read in the papers of old ladies celebrating their 100th birthday or even one or two years more. It seems so awful if she could never walk again. Of course if several[4] doctors agreed on that point then they are probably right. Nothing has shaken my faith so much as hearing the opinion of several doctors as to the right treatment of one and the same malady. If they ever agree it seems only to be mere chance. Now I must come to the thing which is causing me so much worry and if you are at home I hope you will help me by speaking to Father. Poor man I suppose he has troubles enough of his own and I am really sorry to annoy him when as you write his business affairs are not doing very well. Father has not sent me the 10000 mks. he promised me in Dresden and

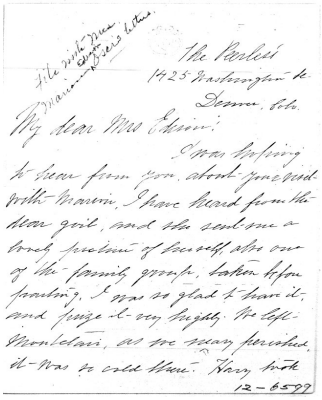
house and the $5000 phonograph bonds which you and Father gave me as a Christmas present were almost worthless a few months later. You can see Mina that it was quite out of the question for us to have bought a new car ourselves as Oscars money is all tied up in the Neusalza factory. When Father promised us in 1906 the sum of $5500 for a new car and a trip through Europe I said to Oscar that we had better wait until the money came before buying the car. I know how impulsive and generous Father is. As soon as he has a stroke of good luck, he wants to make some-

I do not know where I am to take the money from to pay for our new car and the Motor factory wrote us yesterday the first unpleasant letter. The money was due them a month ago so I dread the letters which are probably to follow. The first payment was made when we ordered it. It was taken from what I call my villa money, this is a nice patient cow which has often been milked when we needed ready money. I did not mind that so much but I do mind selling any of my government bonds as all I have $21.000 which is a small sum for the time when I am old and perhaps alone. I only received $1000 for the Menlo

MODENHEIMER GRADUATE
12-6587

one else share it with him and then later when he wants to carry out his promise his luck has changed and he is unable to do so. I am sure that he will not think that I have not been patient as his letter was written six years ago and our old car was no credit to an officer's family still less to the name of Edison. It was known as the "Edison car" all over Elsass. As you were so good as to suggest buying the car to Father I feel sure you will say a good word to him for me as you meant to have it give me pleasure and not have it a source of worry to me. I will write a few lines to Mr. Miller as you may be in Akron which would delay matters. Mr. von Fodor has sent Oscar two etchings of the painter Oeser which I were found in an antiquity shop in Pressburg. We were delighted and have had them framed just as they would have been in his day, 200 years ago. You will do me the greatest possible favor if you would write to Oscar or to me a few lines as soon as you have spoken to Father or have shown him this letter. You will understand that what he says is of the greatest importance to me. Hoping you are all well and with lots of love to all from us both Ever affectionately yours

Marion



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[F5D11AF], Letter from Josephine Stucky (Mrs Henry C.F.) Reimer to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, May 15th, 1912

Title
[F5D11AF], Letter from Josephine Stucky (Mrs Henry C.F.) Reimer to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, May 15th, 1912

Author
Reimer, Josephine Stucky (Mrs Henry C.F.)

Recipient
Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)

Mentioned

- Edison, Marion Estelle
- Edison, Thomas Alva

Date
1912-05-15

Type
Letter

Subject

- Edison-Miller family
- TAE friends and associates
- Finances (TAE and family)
- Photographs and autographs
- Property

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File with Mrs. Edison
Marion Oscar's letters.

The Peerless
1425 Washington St.
Denver, Colo.

My dear Mrs Edison:

I was hoping to hear from you about your visit with Marion. I have heard from the dear girl, and she sent me a lovely picture of herself, also one of the family group, taken before parting. I was so glad to have it, and prize it very highly. We left Montclair, as we nearly perished, it was so cold there. Harry took

12-6599

a position in New Mexico, which promised well, but proved a failure. It has abandoned, and is now with "The Denver Gas and Electric Co," and we have a tiny flat in Denver, Tom has been very, very sick, the Dr feared his disease had affected his throat, it has now healed, but he is very weak, and needs my constant care. He will be twenty three of his birthday, which is Decoration day. I am going to ask if you and Mr Edison will give him your photograph, will you autograph on them, it would make the poor boy so happy. He has so little

sunshine in his life, and I fear has not a great while to live. I am trying to sell my houses 103 & 105 North Munn ave, I cannot afford to hold them, as there is a mortgage for $4000. on them, they cost me $9000, I hoped to live in one of them, but God willed otherwise. I costs for interest $100 every six months, and there are the taxes, so if I could sell, I could pay my debts, and buy a small house, for us to live in. Do you suppose Mr Edison would buy them? They are in a good location, and rent well, at $37.50 a month

are always rented, the mortgage could be left on, it is held by the Half Dime Savings Bank, Orange N.J. and I would have $5000. My agents are Fell & Dennis 343 Main St., East Orange. Please excuse me for troubling you, but if you only knew how I have suffered. Harry's salary is but $80 a month, which is not much for three to live on, with one under the Dr's care, he has to do without many things. Again I ask you to please excuse me, hoping you all are well. I am with much love

Yours sincerely

Josephine L. or Remer

May 15th 1912.

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[F5D11AG], Letter from Marion Estelle Edison to Thomas Alva Edison, August 16th, 1914

Title
[F5D11AG], Letter from Marion Estelle Edison to Thomas Alva Edison, August 16th, 1914

Author
Edison, Marion Estelle

Recipient
Edison, Thomas Alva

Mentioned
Oeser, Karl Oscar

Date
1914-08-16

Type
Letter

Subject

- Edison-Miller family
- World War I
- Military

Folder ID
F5D11-F

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Document ID
F5D11AG

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[TRANSLATION FOLLOWS]

Hotel Römischen Kaiser
~~MODENHEIMERSTRASSE 4~~
Freiburg. Baden
16.8.14

Mein lieber Vater.

Englische Briefe werden während des Krieges nicht befördert. Ich möchte Euch aber nicht ohne Nachricht lassen. Es wird sich Jemanden leicht finden lassen der meine Zeilen übersetzen kann. Eine schreckliche Zeit ist heraufgebrochen. Es graut mir förmlich vor allem was noch kommen muss. Genug hat man schon erlebt. Officieren haben er-

12-6622

[TRANSLATION FOLLOWS]

zählt dass Franzosen, verwundete[2] Deutschen Soldaten, die Augen ausgestochen haben! Die Flieger sagen, dass Mülhausen teilweise in Trümmern liegt. Wo Oscar ist, weiss ich nicht. Ob unser Haus noch steht, weiss eben so wenig. Es wird unsagbares Elend geben auf Jahre hinaus. Ich bin in einer schrecklichen Nacht von 10 Tagen von Oscar per Auto hierher gebracht, wo ich ziemlich sicher bin. Grade deswegen sind sehr viele Rotekreuz Krankenhäuser. Ich werde wahrscheinlich viel schreckliches erleben. Die ersten Tage hier habe ich fast immer zu geweint, denn ich kannte Niemanden und war in grosse Sorge. Jetzt fühle ich mich nicht ganz so verlassen, denn jetzt sind einige bekannte Officiere[3] hier die neue Soldaten ausbilden um die gefallenen Soldaten zu ersetzen. Die Deutschen sind eine fabelhafte Rasse. Officier wie Soldat brennt dem Feinde gegenüber stehen zu können. Unser Bursche bat um abgelöst zu werden als Bursche (ein Bursche ist ein Officiers Diener) um zurück zum Regiment zu gehen um mitkämpfen zu können. Mit solcher Begeisterung, müssen die Deutschen siegen! Es soll Napoleons ganze[4] Grösse sein dass er es verstanden hat solche Begeisterung bei seinen Soldaten hervorzurufen. Briefe aus Amerika werden sehr nicht befördert. Hoffentlich seid Ihr alle gesund und wohlauf. Viele, herzliche Grüsse an alle

Dein Marion.

[TRANSLATION]

Officers told us that French soldiers stabbed the eyes of the German wounded. The aviators report that parts of Mülhausen are ~~[illegible]~~ in ruins. Where Oskar is I do not know. Whether our house is still standing, I know just as little. There will be unspeakable misery for years to come.

I came here 10 days ago in a terrible night. Oskar brought me here in an Auto, and I am rather safe now. For this reason there are a great number of Red-Cross hospitals here. I suppose I

GLENMONT
LLEWELLYN PARK, ORANGE
NEW JERSEY

English letters are not being forwarded during the war, but I did not want to leave you without news. I am sure somebody will easily be found who might transmit later these few lines of mine to you. A terrible era has commenced; one really shudders thinking of what else may be happening. What we have experienced so far is enough already.

12-6620

[TRANSLATION]

will have many terrible experiences.
The first days I was here, I cried almost all the time, for I did not know anybody and was in grave fear. I don't feel as lonesome anymore now, because there are now a few officers I know, training the new Soldiers. The Germans are a wonderful race; officers as well as soldiers are burning from ~~anxiety~~ eagerness to face the enemy. One man asked to be released, that he might return to his regiment and take part in the battle. With such an enthousiasm Germany will come out victorious! Napoleon is said to have owed his entire success to the fact, that he knew how to kindle the enthousiasm of his soldiers. Letters from Amerika do not arrive. I hope you are all well and in good health.

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[F5D11AH], Letter from Marion Estelle Edison to Harry Frederick Miller, October 29th, 1916

Title
[F5D11AH], Letter from Marion Estelle Edison to Harry Frederick Miller, October 29th, 1916

Author
Edison, Marion Estelle

Recipient
Miller, Harry Frederick

Mentioned

- Oeser, Karl Oscar
- Edison, Thomas Alva

Date
1916-10-29

Type
Letter

Subject

- Edison-Miller family
- Finances (TAE and family)
- World War I

Folder ID
F5D11-F

Microfilm ID
285:22

Document ID
F5D11AH

URL
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Eichwald

29.10.16

file
Mrs. Greer.

Dear Mr. Miller.

Through the kindness of a friend in Switzerland I am able to send this letter from there and so feel sure it will reach you. There seems to be no use in trying to get letters through if stamped in in Germany. Many letters are held back as can be seen from the questions from friends why I do not write.

Oct. 26th. your letter of May 31st received. That breaks the record, usually letters get through within two months. Please tell the best and dearest of fathers that I thank him with all my heart for his kindness in increasing my allowance. It will help me very much in getting together the sum I need to build my long dreamed of home. After years of living in other peoples houses and being sent from one city to another

I am happy in the thought[3] of having a home of my own. My husband I hope will want to have a rest from military life when the war is over. It was a very good idea to have the remittance sent as a letter of credit. As I wrote, a check turned up some time after the Bank advised me that they had a letter of credit for me payable within six months. Please excuse repetions as I am never sure if my letters reach you. I wrote that 3 months allowance had been held back. Now only two are missing as one has turned up since I wrote you. Please make sure that these two checks have not been drawn from Fathers account. Through the increased allowance I have had no loss but we must look[4] out that Father has no loss either. If it is necessary to write to the Dresdner Bank about it I advise you to send your letter to some branch in a neutral country. Please dont forget me when it is time for a new letter of credit. The first payment was made July 22nd. If Father has 5 minutes to spare please show him this letter. I am so discouraged about my letters and am afraid no word of thanks reach him. I would not like to have him think I take everything for granted. With kindest regards to yourself and my love to Father and the family I remain

Yours sincerely

Marion E. Oeser.

P.S. This letter was returned to me by my friend. He begs me to write nothing about the way or ever attempt to forward it. Will try to have it sent from Germany; perhaps it will get through. The oftener I write the more chance there is of something reaching you. Will write another letter for Switzerland.

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[F5D11AI], Letter from Marion Estelle Edison to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, Thomas Alva Edison, June 28th, 1917

Title
[F5D11AI], Letter from Marion Estelle Edison to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, Thomas Alva Edison, June 28th, 1917

Author
Edison, Marion Estelle

Recipient

- Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)
- Edison, Thomas Alva

Mentioned

- Edison, Charles
- Miller, Harry Frederick
- Edison, Theodore Miller

Date
1917-06-28

Type
Letter

Subject

- Edison-Miller family
- Newspapers, books, other publications
- World War I

Folder ID
F5D11-F

Microfilm ID
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Document ID
F5D11AI

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28 June 1917

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Bâle, June 28th, 1917.

Dearest Father, dearest Mina,

I am delighted to be in Switzerland again for a change and am taking this opportunity of dictating a few lines to you. My future address is Hotel Schweizerhof, Bâle, Switzerland. Kindly ask Mr. Miller to advise magazines and weeklies of my new address. Have missed them so much when travelling.

I am greatly worried about Charles and Theodore. Please let me know as soon as possible if they are still at home. I see I am often in your thoughts and I thank you so much for your goodness to me. Mina's Xmas letter, Father's Xmas remembrance and the lovely photographs made me very happy. I get so homesick at times that I am overjoyed to have news from home and to see that you have not forgotten me.

With love and kisses to all and hoping you are all well and free from any new worries, I am as ever,

Your loving daughter,

Marion.

12-6595

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[F5D11AJ], Telegram from Walter Stevens to William Henry Meadowcroft, July 5th, 1917

Title
[F5D11AJ], Telegram from Walter Stevens to William Henry Meadowcroft, July 5th, 1917

Author
Stevens, Walter

Recipient
Meadowcroft, William Henry

Mentioned

- Edison, Marion Estelle
- Edison, Thomas Alva

Date
1917-07-05

Type
Telegram

Subject
Edison-Miller family

Folder ID
F5D11-F

Microfilm ID
285:25

Document ID
F5D11AJ

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5 July 1917

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EXPORT DIVISION OF THOMAS A. EDISON, Inc.

DIVISION: EDISON LABORATORY

Memo. No.

SUBJECT:

Date July 5th 1917.

Mr. W. H. Meadowcroft:-

I hand you herewith original cable addressed to Mr. Edison, dated Bale (Switzerland), July 1st, also copy of Mr. Edison's reply as forwarded by us.

WALTER STEVENS

WS/C

2 encl.

12-6639

Attribution

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[F5D11AK], Telegram from Marion Estelle Edison to Thomas Alva Edison, July 1st, 1917

Title
[F5D11AK], Telegram from Marion Estelle Edison to Thomas Alva Edison, July 1st, 1917

Author
Edison, Marion Estelle

Recipient
Edison, Thomas Alva

Date
1917-07-01

Type
Telegram

Subject
Edison-Miller family

Folder ID
F5D11-F

Microfilm ID
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Document ID
F5D11AK

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[ATTACHMENT/ENCLOSURE]

Form 2606

WESTERN UNION CABLEGRAM

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT
GEORGE W. E. ATKINS, VICE-PRESIDENT BELVIDERE BROOKS, VICE-PRESIDENT

Received at 238 MAIN ST. ORANGE, N. J

Marion Oeser

37MYC 16 CMT QN

All well do you want anything-

BALE

DISON

Edison

ORANGE (NJ) Clearclyn PhWO

HOW ARE FAMILY? FUTURE ADDRESSER HOTEL SCHWEIZERHOF BALE BOTH WELL LOVE

MARION OESER

Mrs. Oeser's letters

TELEPHONE NO. 257

TELEPHONE TO T.A.E.

1040A JUL 1

BY W. AT

DISPOSITION Send Copy

Basle

12-6637

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[F5D11AL], Telegram from Thomas Alva Edison to Marion Estelle Edison, July 3rd, 1917

Title
[F5D11AL], Telegram from Thomas Alva Edison to Marion Estelle Edison, July 3rd, 1917

Author
Edison, Thomas Alva

Recipient
Edison, Marion Estelle

Date
1917-07-03

Type
Telegram

Subject
Edison-Miller family

Folder ID
F5D11-F

Microfilm ID
285:27

Document ID
F5D11AL

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[ATTACHMENT/ENCLOSURE]

Form 2003 B

Number	
Time Filed	
Number of Words	

WESTERN UNION CABLEGRAM

THEO. N. VAIL, PRESIDENT

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED	
	Full Rate
	Half Rate Deferred
	Cable Letter
	Week End Letter

Patrons should mark an X opposite the class of service desired; otherwise FULL RATES will be charged
SEE BACK OF THIS BLANK

Send the following Cablegram, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

JULY 3rd, 1917 191

To MARION OESER

HOTEL SCHWEIZERHOF BASLE (SWITZERLAND)

ALL WELL DO YOU WANT ANYTHING

EDISON

~~Charge~~ Thomas A. Edison, INC Export Division

12-6638

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[F5D11AM], Letter from Marion Estelle Edison to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, Thomas Alva Edison, October 2nd, 1917

Title
[F5D11AM], Letter from Marion Estelle Edison to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, Thomas Alva Edison, October 2nd, 1917

Author
Edison, Marion Estelle

Recipient

- Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)
- Edison, Thomas Alva

Mentioned

- Edison, Charles
- Miller, Harry Frederick
- Edison, Theodore Miller
- Oeser, Karl Oscar
- Miller, Grace A

Date
1917-10-02

Type
Letter

Subject

- Edison-Miller family
- Finances (TAE and family)
- Photographs and autographs
- World War I
- Military

Folder ID
F5D11-F

Microfilm ID
285:28

Document ID
F5D11AM

URL
https://edisondigital.rutgers.edu/document/F5D11AM

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Timestamp
2 October 1917

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Hotel Schweizerhof
Am Schweizerischen Bundesbahnhof

E. Götzinger
Besitzer

Basel, den 2ten Oct. 1917

Dearest Father, dearest Mina,

You can imagine my happiness yesterday as I arrived here after an absence of three months to find a whole stack of your letters, magazines and papers. Still that did not keep me from crying over Mina's letters and I had to leave the hotel with red eyes and nose. Mina dear what you write is just what I have thought and felt ever since the war began. Perhaps I have felt things more intensely being so near the suffering line. What makes me so inconsolable now after reading Mina's letter is that Charles and Theodore are planning to enter the army. Oh the pity of it! Why can we not be blessed with peace and an end to all the misery! Just when the boys are such a help and comfort to Father to have them sent to Europe for Heaven knows how long. If many people believe that we are to have peace in this year well I don't. I must repeat what I wrote in my letter to Mr. Miller as many letters they say get lost. Mina's letters No. 1 and 2 arrived safely. Other letters as well

12-6594

which I had expected with the exception of one from Aunt Mary as I had begged her to send me Grace's address as I wanted to thank her for the invitation to her wedding which got lost. I did not want Grace to think that I had received it and would not take the trouble to congratulate her. You seemed surprised that my last letter was so short and contained so little news. I wanted to write as an American travelling in Europe as I did not want Censor to think me as anything but an American which I still am at heart. My pass was given to me while I promised not to write anything about the war at all and I must keep my promise. To come to Basel oftener than every few months would be to arouse German suspicion. I speak German with such a decidedly English accent that I am often look at suspiciously by the German officials who examine my papers and my handbag. All the countries at war have what they call agents in neutral countries, if I did the least thing to arouse their suspicions I should perhaps be taken away from me. My old darling says that these men are glad to find any one whom they can denounce just to show how necessary and useful they are to the

Hotel Schweizerhof
Am Schweizerischen Bundesbahnhof

E. Gätzinger
Besitzer

Basel, den .....

government. I am even afraid to call on my old friend Frau Jaeckle on account of her name and while she always brings me together with Americans. I dont even dare to send my magagines and papers to the Consul hier then the porter here can be one of these agents for all I know. Again I must repeat. Father dear I give you my word of honor that not one cent of American money will be used to buy war funds. I have asked the Miller to have my remittance sent

in January direct to the Swiss Bank Corporation here in Basel as the money will then be put at interest for me until I come. The checks would only accumulate here at the hotel. Although I dread each time the thought of coming I plan to come again in Dec. or Jan. in hopes of finding home letters. To be without news for so long is bad enough. Dont forget to write when the boys enter the army and above all when they sail for Europe. Just think of their throwing down bombs in Alsace. There are awful complications in this atrocious war. Poor little Switzerland is having a hard time of it too. Do send

them some food if you have any left over. I have a new fur cape good enough for a princess but a good square meal is something so rare that I have even forgotten how it looks. Still I am not to be pitied, haven't eaten as much as I wanted for 10 years for fear of getting too stout. Did Mr. Holland's secretary or whatever he was call on you? Frau Jaeckle asked him to meet me at her home as he said it was quite likely that he could find time to go ~~to~~ to Orange to give you news of us. I was so nervous for fear of missing my train that I did not tell him half the things I wanted him to say to you. I tried in every way to get my new

address to you so that you could write about the boys. One thing I must explain. I lost my friend at the Post Office who used to send my letters to America. I cannot blame him for going back on me. During his vacation I sent a letter to you and this letter was opened by the man who was there in his place. This was before the war broke out in America. I wrote several things in this letter which I ought not to have written and of course it made trouble for our friend. It was a breach of confidence and something I deeply regret and do not like to think about. I tried sending you a letter from Bremen, war broke out and the ship did not sail. I was half wild

as I did not know what you would think of me for not writing so long. Oscar has grown old during the war, you would hardly know him. He has a rage for saving money, seems to think we will all be ruined. I tell him to save all he can from his money but I want to have the few comforts money can bring, he is a dear fellow, lets me do what I want to and looks out that I have lots of things which only a few mortals can have these days. Dearest Nina could you not make it possible that I find a nice, long, newsy letter and a few photographs there when I come the next time? I would

so like pictures of Theodore and the baby as I have no idea how they look now. I would so like a family group and a picture of the sitting-room which I have never seen. Madeleine as sister would not mind taking the trouble to pack them. You are such a busy woman Mina dear that I could hardly find time for such things. I was so happy to receive such good news of Father, it is not often that I have an cause to be happy, Oscar is daily in danger I could write you many interesting things but I must not forget my promise. Much love to all the family, particularly to you dear dear Father and you dearest Mina from
Your loving daughter
Love to all from Oscar. Marion

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[F5D11AO], Letter from Marion Estelle Edison to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, Thomas Alva Edison, December 2nd, 1918

Title
[F5D11AO], Letter from Marion Estelle Edison to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, Thomas Alva Edison, December 2nd, 1918

Author
Edison, Marion Estelle

Recipient

- Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)
- Edison, Thomas Alva

Mentioned

- Miller, Harry Frederick
- Edison, Edith Clarissa
- Oeser, Karl Oscar

Date
1918-12-02

Type
Letter

Subject

- Edison-Miller family
- Finances (TAE and family)
- World War I
- General economic and business conditions
- Health and medicine

Folder ID
F5D11-F

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F5D11AO

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Hotel Henk
Nenenburg, Baden
2.12.18

ans

Dearest Father, dearest Mina

A few words in haste, if I take time to write a long letter as I would like to I might miss the chance of getting this letter off. Dark clouds are hanging over Germany. Food scarce, sickness everywhere and money seems to have no value. Oscar is in a hospital, his nerves broke down about two

12—6634

2

weeks ago. He has grown thin in this short time and his hair has grown white you would not know him. I keep well but that is about the only thing for which I have to be grateful. It was impossible for me to get into Switzerland again as they want no strangers on account of their scarcity of food. Help from America and peace will change all this and I will go to Bâle as soon as I can. My address is ~~Swiss Hotel Schweizerhof Bank Corporation~~, Bâle (Basel). Please tell Mr. Miller to send nothing to Germany. I have used up most

of my "own" home money
during the war and I
dont see why I should
be forced to pay other
peoples debts. If I dont
build my own home
soon I may never
live to have one. Over
in Eichwald the Stars
and Stripes are flattering
in the wind! When
I at last receive home
news again I hope to
hear only good news,
that you are all
well and that none
of the boys hat to enter
the army. Love and
kisses to you both
and to all the others.

Ever your loving daughter

Marion

Are you, dear Mina, a[illegible] Com[illegible] Edith forgetting me? There were no answers to my [illegible]b. letters [illegible] mond [illegible] brought me from Switzerland. I am afraid that letters get lost.

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[F5D11AP], Letter from Marion Estelle Edison to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, Thomas Alva Edison, March 9th, 1920

Title
[F5D11AP], Letter from Marion Estelle Edison to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, Thomas Alva Edison, March 9th, 1920

Author
Edison, Marion Estelle

Recipient

- Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)
- Edison, Thomas Alva

Mentioned

- Oeser, Friedrich
- Berger, Clara
- Stilwell, Alice
- Miller, Harry Frederick
- Edison, Edith Clarissa
- Oeser, Eugenie
- Oeser, Karl Oscar

Date
1920-03-09

Type
Letter

Subject

- Edison-Miller family
- World War I
- Social customs, norms, values
- Property
- Litigation

Folder ID
F5D11-F

Microfilm ID
285:36

Document ID
F5D11AP

URL
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Timestamp
9 March 1920

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Würzburg

Mar. 9th 1920.

Dearest Father, dearest Mina,

Although I have had no letter from home for such a long time I have heard through Edith and Mr. Miller that you are all well and things at home are as usual. I wish I could write you the same of Oscar and me. Since last June I have been very unhappy. I wanted to write you when we were in Bâle but we arrived there so late and had to leave so early that I could only find time for a letter to Mr. Miller which I scratched off in a few minutes. Aunt Alice never received the letter it seems which I sent her from Germany so that I have written none from here since then. Probably the post office girls think it is patriotic to confiscate American letters.

12 – 6627

use the stamps themselves and throw the letters away. To tell the truth I have had enough of Germany and the Germans to last me for the rest of my life. Instead of celebrating our Silver Wedding next October we are parting. The war has caused more miseries than those of the battlefields. Oscar has not been much of a credit to us during the war. Our home in Mülhausen was the meeting-place for crowds of Officers with their mistresses. Oscar was like a changed man, although I felt that something was wrong I did not know what it could be. His treatment only added to the other miseries caused by the war. In June I found some disgusting photographs in his desk. That made me ask questions and within a week I found out enough. After standing it until November I left home and gave the whole thing into my lawyers hands. Having lived with him 4 months after having found out about his life during the war in Mülhausen my lawyer said it would be more difficult to get a divorce than

it would have been if I had sued for a divorce at once. She says that the number of divorces during and since the war are so appalling that the courts are doing all they can to put a stop to it. Oscar made a great mistake in November. As soon as he found out where I was living he came with a gun and forced me to write a letter recalling my suit and made me return home with him. There are lots of witnesses to the truth of this statement and my lawyer says it will make a very bad impression and will be very much in my favor. I left home the second time in January and only my lawyer and two well tried friends know where I am. No danger of his finding me this time. My darling Father for your sake and for our honored name I was willing to sacrefice my peace of mind and happiness and remain with Oscar but I soon saw and realized that the sacrefice would be in vain. The whole affair was too well known. My cook knew before I did that Oscar's mistress was a waitress in a Bierhaus in Mülhausen. Now Oscar tries to turn the tables and says that Major von Witzleben was my lover. That is an old trick my lawyer says and would have had no weight with the court. Oscar's lawyer must be of the same opinion for he has not brought up anything of that kind against me. A much better card for them to play is that I remained so long with Oscar and that I had no right later to change my mind. That is the only thing which can hurt my case. Well even if the law does not separate us I will never go back to him. I have been estranged from him for 5 years, his treatment of me made me very unhappy. An American does everything in his power to give his wife every comfort and luxury but this German would not even let me have the money which belonged to me. He only gave me enough of my money to pay for the most necessary things and even that was not always the case. Many times I was not able to pay my maid or for my meals at the inn in Eichwald. My maid once said to me that her mother who was only a peasant woman

Well he has a cool head, & talks about the two divorces as if they were the present rage and of no consequences whatsoever. He invites me to come to him as it must be so lonely for me being so far away from my friends. He writes. He does not in the least take Oscar's part although he ought to as a brother. Even if I cannot get my divorce I am not going back to Oscar. There is no love in my heart for him left and I want to get far away from him where I can forget him and what I have suffered through him. Even during the years 1916 to 1919 when he treated me so badly I still loved him and I never heard the roar of the cannon in the Vosges without fearing for his life. It is a blessing that I no longer love him for he has it no more in his power to make me unhappy. I am sleeping better than I have had more money in her pocket book than I had. At the same time he refused to buy me a tiny chain I wanted. He gave his mistress a gold bracelet with a watch. She says he bought it with Belgian money and not with mine. Well it is disgusting enough in any case. To see Father and Mama that I have too much to forgive ever to be happy again with Oscar. My Oscar of happier days exists no more. We were like two lovers until the war began. No marriage could have been happier and so I cannot understand how it could end so. My poor young sister-in-law is going through the same misery. She will have no difficulty in getting her divorce as she did not wait as I did. Poor mother Oeser she is quite miserable and I know of no way to console her. We are very fond of each other and I will never go back on her as long as I live. Fritz (my brother-in-law) wrote me a lovely letter a few days ago. My lawyer forwards my mail.

12-6697

for years and that means so much to me. I have found out too how many friends I have during my troubles. My future is very uncertain sometimes I think it would be better to go back home, perhaps to Aunt Allie or live in the little Edison home in Milan in case it is rented to strangers. Conditions are almost unbearable here in Germany. I am living in the best hotel here. There is a Japan Prince and 2 French Officers living on the same floor but although it under zero we have no heat anywhere in the hotel. There is no warm bath to be had either. I am sitting in my furs and my hands are almost stiff with the cold. Black coffee and bread with jam makes up my breakfast daily. The other two meals are better than they were in Baden. The poor people are having an awful time of it. Most things are 15 times as dear as they used to be. When I change my Swiss money into German money I feel rich but when you have to pay 15 times as much for everything as before the war you have less instead of more. Minna dear please write me soon a nice long letter. You have'nt written for ages and I am always so interested in what you are all doing at home and how you all are. How are the babies? Have'nt you any photographs to send me? My address still remains Hotel Schweizerhof. Bâle. The friend who is taking this letter with him to Switzerland leaves for north Germany to make his home there and I can probably go to Bâle myself in a few weeks. March 16th will be a very exciting day for me. I am glad I have nothing personally to do in the matter. Hoping this will find you all well and with love and kisses to all I am as ever your grateful and loving daughter Marion.

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[F5D11AQ], Letter from Marion Estelle Edison to Thomas Alva Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, April 1st, 1920

Title
[F5D11AQ], Letter from Marion Estelle Edison to Thomas Alva Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, April 1st, 1920

Author
Edison, Marion Estelle

Recipient

- Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)
- Edison, Thomas Alva

Mentioned

- Oeser, Friedrich
- Oeser, Eugenie
- Oeser, Karl Oscar

Date
1920-04-01

Type
Letter

Subject

- Edison-Miller family
- World War I
- Litigation
- Health and medicine

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https://edisondigital.rutgers.edu/iiif/2/F5D11AQ/manifest

that but I could not believe that Oscar would act so after my two attempts to end my life. He has left nothing undone to force me to return to him. The first time he succeed with the aid of his gun because I was really afraid he would shoot us both. My mother-in-law writes that if I do not return to Oscar before Easter she is going to write you that I had a love affair with a doctor before the war began. Oscar must have told her to write that and she got things mixed up. No doctor ever entered our house before the war began but our old bald-headed doctor Rusche. I mean Richwald many doctors who where

Würzburg April 1st 1920

Please address
p.a. Herrn Mutter
Freiburg, Breisgau
Kaiser Str. 151

Dearest Father, dearest Mina,

I have had an awful night and my head is not clear enough to write a long letter. Only a few lines which I want to get off as soon as possible. Last evening I received a letter from my mother-in-law which was much worse even than I had expected. Oscar has succeeded in making her believe all the awful things about me which he has been trying for months to make other people believe. My lawyer prepared me for

resting there called. although Oscar pretends to love me like is telling everybody that I have had 6 lovers, the doctor it seems comes extra. A pock-marked woman who during the years between 40 & 47 who could seduce so many men would be a modern world wonder! It seems queer that he lets his lawyer say nothing of the kind in his defense. I am going to send you both papers translated by a person who has no interest in changing anything. I am going to have a letter from Fritz my brother-in-law translated for you too. He is entirely on my side and quite understands that I refuse to live an unhappy life at Oscar's side because Oscar needs my money. From Fritz's letter you can see for yourself that Oscar's main worry in losing me is that my money in the future belongs to me instead of to him. He has a pension of 6000 mks. and Fritz says he can get along on that very well. Have you received my long letter which I had posted in Bâle? I was so happy to receive Mina's dear long letter which I will soon answer. I am going to have this letter addressed by a native perhaps there are more chances of its getting through. Awful times in Germany. I should'nt care a straw if they blow the whole hotel up. I have had enough of Germany and the Germans. I cried over the address on Mina's letters. The hand-writing took me back to the days of my youth when I made a great mistake. Love and kisses to all from your unhappy daughter Marion

Attribution

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[F5D11AR], Letter from Marion Estelle Edison to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, Thomas Alva Edison, May 12th, 1920

Title
[F5D11AR], Letter from Marion Estelle Edison to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, Thomas Alva Edison, May 12th, 1920

Author
Edison, Marion Estelle

Recipient

- Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)
- Edison, Thomas Alva

Mentioned

- Oeser, Friedrich
- Berger, Clara
- Earl, Elizabeth F
- Edison, Madeleine
- Edison, Simeon Ogden

Date
1920-05-12

Type
Letter

Subject

- Edison-Miller family
- Photographs and autographs
- Social customs, norms, values
- Property
- Litigation

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Eisenach
May 12th 1920

Dearest Father, dearest Mina
Please excuse this purple ink. "Salon ink for fine people" is printed in German on the label. After seeing the men here wear grass-green overcoats and even a man in Stuttgart had the courage to appear in a swell tea room in a purple one, I am getting used to all sorts of queer things. Unfortunately the queerest things of all are of more importance. Two French Officers, a Saxon Prince (a student) & I froze all through February and part of March because at

the only hotel where you could get enough to eat they had no coal for the furnace. The public baths were closed and no baths to be had at the hotel either. I went to bed at any hour of the day to get warm and drank between times hot red wine which did not agree with me. I dont believe I will ever learn to drink wine. I suppose you would smile at what I call a hotel where you could get enough to eat. Unless a girl friend of mine had made me a present of some butter my breakfast consisted for two months I was there of two slices of black bread, coffee with saccarine and skimmed milk and jam. I had a stroke of luck here in Eisenach, the city has just received a large

12 - 6620

quantity of condensed milk and have bought a lot to take back with me to Würzburg. I came here for a little change. Here is a Southern house built before America was discovered and on a high hill near the city stands the Wartburg where Luther was kept a prisoner for his own protection over 2 years. Wonderfully beautiful is the big room in the castle which we have so often seen in Tannhäuser. I go to see everything worth seeing for I want as little time as possible to think of my trouble. I just think of it the teacher of English who undertook to translate my papers for you had not yet finished them when I left Würzburg although she had had them almost four weeks. I would have translated them myself but I wanted a stranger to do it so that you could see that the translation had been influenced by the wish to make you see my side of the question. I have written several times. Have you received the photographs of Oscar with his mistress? Have you received the translation of my brother-in-laws letter in which can be seen that Oscars one worry is that he cannot live on his pension? When it comes to money matters the Germans are the meanest people under the sun. Although Oscar knew that I alone would be able to pay the mortgage on our villa he had it put half in his name so that when we sell now he will get half of the money which I had to pay. I feel sure he only did it because he knew

that at any moment I might have discovered his affair with Clara Berger. I have received some new papers about my suit. Oscar's lawyer insists that I forgave him a second time! What do you say to that? That was the time he came with his gun and made me recall my suit. Fortunately my lawyer has a letter from me written shortly after returning home in which I wrote that I had been forced to write him to stop my suit, that I was watched like a prisoner and would leave home again as soon as I had a chance. From the very first my lawyer said that I must be prepared for a lot of lies so I would not wonder much at the truth being stretched a bit but what

12-6628

makes me so unhappy is the awful things which Oscar is saying of me. My brother-in-law does not believe he will write you these things but if he does he is going to write you, Father dear, and he says as he himself is a judge you will lay some weight to what he has to say on the subject. An Officer who knows Oscar very well said to me in Würzburg that Oscar lies like print (er lügt wie gedruckt). He is not the only German who has learned to do that. Soldiers who were born and brought up in Alsace told me some awful things. German soldiers would feel themselves very virtuous in such a case when they tell you a pack of lies. The Officers

were not a bit better as far as I could see. Oscar "lost" 5000 mks. worth of war Fund Bonds. I am not at all sure that he did not give them to his servant-friend. Waitresses are servants in spite of their silk gowns and valuable furs only they don't earn their money always in the way honest servants do. I was so delighted to get your long lovely letter from Florida. Thanks you so much, dearest Mina, also for the photographs. How I wish I could have been down there with you and could have had a good talk. What a big heart you have, no letter from an own mother could have been sweeter. You try to help me to forgive and still show how well you understand my struggle in saying that you do not know if you yourself could forgive in such a case. What you write is true, Oscar was a dear husband and lover for many years and made me very happy. He is no more, he is so changed that I at times hardly know him. I cannot go back to him even if they are unjust enough not to give me my divorce. As to his good influence, it was no longer necessary after Father sent over Uncle Jim. I knew then that he had not gone back on me as Mrs. Earl said but still loved me and cared for my happiness. I have never forgotten that or what you dear, dear Father have done for me since. I am so glad to receive only good news from home. Do tell Madeleine to send me pictures of her babies, I am just as fond of babies as ever. With love to all I am as ever your loving and grateful daughter Marion

c/o Herrn Rechtsanwalt Mutter
Freiburg, Baden, Kaiser Str. 151.

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[F5D11AT], Letter from Marion Estelle Edison to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, August 13th, 1920

Title
[F5D11AT], Letter from Marion Estelle Edison to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, August 13th, 1920

Author
Edison, Marion Estelle

Recipient
Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)

Mentioned

- Berger, Clara
- Oeser, Karl Oscar

Date
1920-08-13

Type
Letter

Subject

- Edison-Miller family
- Photographs and autographs
- Litigation
- Patent and legal counsel

Folder ID
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Würzburg 13.8.20.

Sent Photograph Sept. 3-1920.

My dearest Mina,

Just a few words in haste. I must ask you to do me a favor. Please send the little photograph of Oscar sitting in a restaurant with Clara Berger to Herrn Rechtsanwalt Mutter, Freiburg, Baden, Kaiser Str. 151. Just send it off as 12-6630

soon as you possibly can, no need to add an explanation. I am so afraid you may have destroyed it as it is the only copy I have and it is of the greatest importance for my suit. Tomorrow I only forgave I soar to avoid the thing returning known. These pictures show how he deceived me in saying that he had never been seed with this woman. I wrote a long letter some days ago which I hope you have received. Love to all, affectionately

Marion.

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[F5D11AU], Letter from Marion Estelle Edison to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, September 11th, 1920

Title
[F5D11AU], Letter from Marion Estelle Edison to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, September 11th, 1920

Author
Edison, Marion Estelle

Recipient
Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)

Mentioned

- Berger, Clara
- Oeser, Karl Oscar

Date
1920-09-11

Type
Letter

Subject

- Edison-Miller family
- Photographs and autographs
- Social customs, norms, values
- Litigation

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11 September 1920

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Hotel Victoria
Stuttgart

11.9.20.

Dearest Mina,

This is one of Germany's largest cities and I am in my element although I do not believe that my nerves could stand it long. I am on my way south to meet my lawyer. It would have been too expensive for him to have come to me. We are to meet in Donaueschingen as I am afraid to go to Freiburg. A friend of mine a lawyer is coming with him. My girl friend from Müllheim is coming for a few days too

12-6706

and I am so happy at the prospects of seeing her again. She is a ray of sunshine and I cannot be glad enough that she came into my life when I most needed her. I am so afraid that my letter may have gone astray in which I asked you to enclose Oscar's photograph taken with C. Berger in a restaurant in an envelope and send it to my lawyer Herrn Mutter, 151 Kaiser St. Freiburg, Baden. This picture is of the greatest importance and I beg you to send it as soon as possible if you have not already done so. It is not necessary to write anything. Please make me happy with a letter and send it to Mrs. M. E. Edison Hotel Kronprinz, Würzburg, Bavaria. My lawyers girls slip my letters into magazines and I am afraid of letters getting lost. I shall remain all winter probably in Würzburg. I have written several times and hope you have received everything. Love to all Affectionately Marion.

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[F5D11AV], Letter from Marion Estelle Edison to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, September 30th, 1920

Title
[F5D11AV], Letter from Marion Estelle Edison to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, September 30th, 1920

Author
Edison, Marion Estelle

Recipient
Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)

Mentioned

- Oeser, Friedrich
- Berger, Clara
- Oeser, Karl Oscar
- Edison, Thomas Alva

Date
1920-09-30

Type
Letter

Subject

- Edison-Miller family
- TAE health
- Photographs and autographs
- World War I
- Social customs, norms, values
- Management (companies and organizations)
- Litigation

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is I did not write at all so as not to be tempted to tell you all, then besides, keeping things back and pretending you are happy when you are miserable is a form of lying too. I owe you and Father who are nearest and dearest to me the whole truth. As it is there are many things which I have kept back because I was afraid of making my letter too long. You are mistaken when you think that the war alone is to blame for Oscars behavior. On that point I have even tried to deceive myself. Now that I know that Oscar wanted to deceive me in 1912 when he tried to seduce Fritzi's wife and about a year later had an affair with a woman in Müllheim. There is no use trying to blame his actions on the war. He is simply a man who likes a change in women for he was still a very passionate lover at the time he had this affair in 1913 with this married woman in Müllheim. His General received a letter about it and I

Hotel Kronprinz
Würzburg
Bavaria

30. 9. 20.

My dearest Mina,

How happy I was to receive your letter yesterday, relieved too as I was getting worried about the photograph. My lawyer said that you had not sent it to him so that I was afraid that you had thrown it away. It would have been no wonder. You are quite right, it is not a good thing to have such photographs near me, there is nothing like such things to keep the wounds from healing. Why Mina dear you could not more forgive Oscar than I can. You know I forgave him at first and was still loyal to him not even telling you or Father of my trouble. That

12 – 6625

was quite satisfied with Oscars saying that he did not even know such a woman. I found out her name when I was in Baden and the affair was quite as well known in Mülhausen before the war as his affair with Clara Berger during the war. You know what people have told me nothing until I began to ask questions. Even my best friend Frau Ritz told me nothing although she has known from the start of Oscar's affair with Clara Berger. You must not believe that I have fallen under the influence of people who want to make trouble. Of course all people are on my side and willing to help me to get my freedom now that they see that my heart is so set on it. These photographs are very valuable to me, showing that Oscar deceived me when he said that no one knew of his affair and that he had never been seen on the street with Clara Berger. I know you

want to know what my lawyer said so I would have written even if I had had no letter to answer. I think I wrote you from Donaueschingen but only a card. I was rather nervous in Baden on account of Oscar and glad to come North again. That reminds me of something which almost sounds like a joke. A minister in Müllheim wrote that if I would consent to meet Oscar to have a talk, Oscar would promise me to carry no gun or pistol with him! Well it does not seem very funny to me when I think of the day when he came at about 7 o'clock in the morning to my hotel in Freiburg and made me recall my divorce suit and return home with him. My lawyer told me a few weeks later when I left him the second time that this would make a very bad impression on the judges and would be very favorable for

mind from my trouble. I go to the theatre, to concerts, to lectures and have found a shop which contains books which has an excellent English library and the newest German books. I have made the acquaintance of a very congenial woman; she is unmarried about my age and we have become very good friends. She brightens things up for me too as we walk together and we often go to the concerts together. It has been a great trial to me being so much alone. I long so to be in my sweet little home again. It was an awful thing to have to enter my home with Oscar. You will remember that it was the dream of my life to have a home of my own and I have been saving up for it for years. I little thought that I should enter it under such appalling circumstances. Oscar only tried to get it away from me, he thought I would pay any

my case. Speaking of judges reminds me of an queer coincidence. You wrote of a judge who would never grant a divorce within a year. About a week ago I kept my promise to write Selfridge as soon as I got back just what my lawyer thought of my case. I wrote her as a sort of explanation why my case seems so endless that I personally think it a very wise thing for judges to give people time to consider if their decision to get a divorce final is, a sort of protection of people against themselves. Then I added I think the judges make me wait on purpose. Now after what you write I am quite certain that it is so. Well I have learned to be patient and am contented in a mild sort of way. I never realized how many friends I have until this trouble came to me and they keep me from being unhappy. I think of Oscar as little as possible and my life is very full of things to keep my

13-F 6625

price for my freedom. He has no right to the whole house. He put it half in his name although it was paid for with my money. O I have lots to forgive Mina. How well you understand things. Although you plead for Oscar you can no more find any excuses or understand him than I can. I had a two hours talk with my lawyer in Baden-Baden. He thinks I am quite certain to get my divorce. Oscar's lawyer is very much disliked by the judges in Freiburg, Gertrud who was my witness told me the same thing. This is very favorable for me for this lawyer wrote in his defense that I had been unfaithful to Oscar. My lawyer says that it is an old trick to turn the tables and is not likely to influence the judges. Of course it is'nt a good thing that I am an American. The judges will be prejudiced even if they do not mean to be. My lawyer is a nice man and tried to console me. He said that there would not be a married woman to be found if every woman who's husband is unfaithful got a divorce! What do you say to that? He says I am lucky not to have caught some sexual disease as so many women did from their husbands during the war. Well nothing is so bad that it might not be worse. Mina dear think of my lonely Christmas in a hotel room with bear walls. I have only one wish and that is a few photographs from home. I had to leave everything behind. I would like a family group and a photograph of Madeleine's two darlings. I can put photographs on the walls with four draftsman's pins without injuring them a bit. Please send letters to Mrs. M. E. Edison, Hotel Kronprinz, Würzburg, Baveria. I shall remain here all winter. I trust Father dear has straightened things out at the works and doesn't have to work so hard. It is a blessing that he keeps so well and can stand so much hard work. With love to all Ever lovingly yours

Marion.

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[F5D11AW], Letter from Marion Estelle Edison to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, January 24th, 1921

Title
[F5D11AW], Letter from Marion Estelle Edison to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, January 24th, 1921

Author
Edison, Marion Estelle

Recipient
Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)

Mentioned

- Berger, Clara
- Oeser, Karl Oscar

Date
1921-01-24

Type
Letter

Subject

- Edison-Miller family
- Crime and justice
- Health and medicine

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Hotel Zähringer Hof
Freiburg, Baden

Jan. 24th 1921.

My dearest Mina,

My head is'nt clear enough for a letter but I do not want to wait a moment longer to tell you that the box of "Love gifts" as they call them here in Germany has at last turned up and I am so delighted. I thank you with all my heart for so kindly thinking of me. They sent up the box yesterday but it must have come Saturday evening taking over 3 weeks to get from Hamburg to Freiburg. Of course I made a big fuss about it and wrote and telegraphed in all

12-6613

directions. Soon I would have given up all hope as they were of the opinion here that it had gone astray. Thank you so much too Mina dear for your last letter which I will answer in a few days also for the Glenmont cable. I am not quite sure that it is quite the right thing for me to have come down here so near Oscar. He and Clara are constantly seen together and of course I hear more of such talk down here than I did in Würzburg. My insomnia is worse than ever and I am so tired after such a night that I will probably lie down on the sofa as soon as this card is finished although I have only just had breakfast. Well I might just as well be dead. Please on no account write to Oscar. He would only consider it an encouragement and my only hope of happiness is to forget him. I wrote you that the burglary was the real thing. That is one thing to be thankful for. Again many thanks for all your goodness to me.

Love to all affectionately Marion.

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[F5D11AW1], Letter from Marion Estelle Edison to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, May 31st, 1921

Title
[F5D11AW1], Letter from Marion Estelle Edison to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, May 31st, 1921

Editor's Notes
Supplied year

Author
Edison, Marion Estelle

Recipient
Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)

Mentioned

- Edison Phonograph Works
- Cosmopolitan (Magazine)
- Berger, Clara
- Edison, Madeleine
- Oeser, Eugenie
- Oeser, Karl Oscar

Date
1921-05-31

Type
Letter

Subject

- Edison-Miller family
- TAE health
- Newspapers, books, other publications
- World War I
- Social customs, norms, values
- Health and medicine

Folder ID
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Microfilm ID
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Document ID
F5D11AW1

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Hotel Zähringer Hof
Freiburg
Baden May 31st

Dearest Mina,

As I did not get my usual Birthday letter this year I am wondering if you did not perhaps go to Florida. Down there it is probably easier to find time for letter writing. My last letter home was one to Madeleine. I have written you at least twice since Christmas. I wish I had some good news to write you. I have seen Oscar several times during the last two months. He has often cried when we were together and is very unhappy about our divorce. About 10 days ago his mistress was in Müllheim and passed 3 days with him in our villa. She probably had an awful scare when I appeared unexpectedly the 2nd day after she left. She would not let me in at the front door after I had waited a long time for the garden gate to open. It seemed he wanted to gain time before letting me in. Then yesterday I saw something which seemed queer. Oscar never uses think damask towels, he would never use any but those of very heavy, coarse linen. It surprised me to see two of my very finest towels hanging at the wash-stand in our bath-room. The married couple who are living in our second floor told me that Clara Berger had been with Oscar 3 days and that it would have been a good thing if I had come the day before. I cannot see it in that light. I do not care any more what he does. He will only lose the few friends he still has and I am sure he will feel very unhappy later. I am hoping he will come to his senses before he takes this woman to live with him, a wild marriage as they call it here is considered a great disgrace and his mother is

still living. The lawyers say that I may probably get my divorce in June or July. I had had to pay very high for my liberty but it is ready at any price as matters now stand. I am back here at this excellent hotel after having passed 4 weeks in a Sanatorium, a sort of home for sick people. I got rid of my Asthma which was only nervous and then I had a Fibrom cut out at the back of my head which had grown rather too large. The doctor said that he could do nothing for my mourning until my mind got quieted down. Oscar called twice at the Sanatorium and each time I got so excited that the doctor wrote him that he would not allow me to receive him any more. I wrote him myself and told him that my offer was more than generous and that I would make no more concessions. I had to go to Müllheim to bring him 9000 mks. to pay for our furniture from Müllhausen which they had sent c.o.d. This furniture is for Oscar so that he really cannot complain that I am not treating him generously. If only he and this girl would go away from here. I suppose it is a sin that I often wish he had been killed in the war and I had gone on believing him a good man. I have a new friend, a business man, who runs his father's factory in Saalr not far from Freiburg. He takes very good care of me and my money affairs. His advice has gained for me a lot of money. Oscar has heard of him of course and is afraid I am going to marry him. I would like to know what business it is of his and besides we never think of it seriously. He is too young and I would be a suspicious wife after my experiences with my own and other people's husbands. Please write me soon so as to console me for not having received a Birthday letter. A home letter cheers me up so much. How is Father dear getting on? He doesn't look a day older than he did 10 years ago. Put the advertisement out of the Cosmopolitan and am glad to have a picture of him. Are the works really closed down? Much love to all ever affectionately Marion.

Are there any new babies?

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[F5D11AX], Letter from Marion Estelle Edison to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, June 11th, 1921

Title
[F5D11AX], Letter from Marion Estelle Edison to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, June 11th, 1921

Author
Edison, Marion Estelle

Recipient
Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)

Mentioned

- Falk, Benjamin J
- Edison, Madeleine
- Oeser, Karl Oscar
- Edison, Thomas Alva

Date
1921-06-11

Type
Letter

Subject

- Edison-Miller family
- Photographs and autographs
- Property
- Litigation

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Timestamp
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know Mina dear that I am here to remain until I can go to live in my own home. You must have misunderstood me as I never thought of returning to Würzburg. I hope you received the letter I wrote you about a week ago. I hope too that Madeleine received my thanks for the Xmas card with her boys pictures. I have found at last a sweet little thin frame for them and all think that they are perfect darlings. I only wish I knew their names and ages. About one family picture I am quite unhappy and you have no idea how much it means to me to have to part with it. This picture is my favorite picture of Father, he is standing with his hands in his trousers and

Hotel Zähringer Hof
Freiburg
Baden

11.6.21.

Dearest Mina.

Yesterday I received a card from an Express Co. in Hamburg saying that they had sent a box of Liebesgaben to my address in Würzburg. Of course I was made very happy by your kind thought and wrote at once to Würzburg to have the box forwarded here as soon as it arrives. As it is almost a strait line Hamburg-Würzburg-Freiburg it does not make much difference that it was sent there instead of to Freiburg. You

12-6633

smiling one of his very
dearest smiles. It was taken
by Falk and was sent over
about 10 years ago or more.
My lawyer could not help
me when Oscar demanded
the whole ~~[illegible]~~ den with
everything in it except my
books which he does not
care about. I begged of him
to let me have this photo-
graph of Father but he re-
fused. You see Mina if
I had not given in in al-
most every case I could
never have obtained my
freedom because he had
such a powerful card in
his hand – my forgiveness.
If I were to make out a list
for you of all the things
which I shall have to give
him I am afraid you would
think I exaggerated. The
lawyers say that I will
probably get my divorce
before the courts close in
August. I am not so sure

but I have learned to be
patient. Well Mina dear do
you know was is probably
coming? There is no use guess-
ing, you would never even
think of such a thing. My
lawyer says that if I dont
live in my villa as soon
as I get my divorce I may
lose my right to an apart-
ment and the town will
give it to someone else. As
far as I can see Oscar does
not want to move and
even if he did it would
be almost impossible to
get an apartment. Times are
awful in every way. If Glen-
mont was here you would
have to give up the top floor
entirely and rent some fur-
nished rooms. You would
enjoy that. To live again
in the same house with Oscar
not only seems queer and
unpleasant but I am sure
will create a sensation. Much
love to all but especially to Father
and many thanks for your kind-
ness in sending me the box of goodies
Ever lovingly yours Marion

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[F5D11AY], Letter from Marion Estelle Edison to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, July 18th, 1921

Title
[F5D11AY], Letter from Marion Estelle Edison to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, July 18th, 1921

Author
Edison, Marion Estelle

Recipient
Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)

Mentioned

- Oeser, Friedrich
- Edison, Edith Clarissa
- Oeser, Karl Oscar
- Ford, Henry
- Edison, Thomas Alva

Date
1921-07-18

Type
Letter

Subject

- Edison-Miller family
- TAE health
- International business operations
- Litigation

Folder ID
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workmen demanded quite impossible wages. Mina dear I cannot understand why any of you could be in doubt about my address. I now keep a diary and can see just when I wrote you. I wrote you before Christmas that I was coming to this hotel in January. Then I wrote you Jan. 24th thanking you for the box of good things giving my new address. Then I wrote you again on the 7th of February. I wrote Madeleine in March, leaving of course my letter with my address as I always do. On June the sixth I wrote you my last letter, saying that the box of Liebesgaben had left Hamburg. Cousin Edith I have not written for an age as I had no letter to answer. It was always such a treat to get a letter from her that I am awfully sorry that her last letter was sent back. Perhaps some over patriotic German at the post office sent it back in a fury because it pro-

Hotel Zähringer Hof
Freiburg, Baden 18.7.22.

Dearest Mina,

Your letter of June 30th came yesterday taking rather longer to come than letters usually do nowadays. I was so glad to get a home letter again after waiting so long. I would have only liked better news. Poor Father, I am so sorry he is being so worried. He really deserves to have an easier time of it after working so hard almost all his life. The papers stated that Mr Ford's works had been closed as well as many other factories. Of course we are getting used to that here. Some factories have had to close because they had no coal others because the

probably had only a two cent stamp and costs 6 times as much together postage as it used to do to send a letter from Germany to America. You know the Germans consider themselves beggars and the Americans as all millionaires. I have to pay 1,50 mk for all letters from home but only the porter seems to mind. Home letters are worth any sum to me so I do not mind in the least. Today I have some very good news. I won my suit about a week ago and am very happy about it. I have none of the doubts you have. I could never have been happy again with Oscar or what is worse could have hated him. He has this woman still and she visited him three days in our home. This is not gossip but a fact. I do not think that I shall ever regret the step I took when I left him. Why I can even sleep better already because I no longer care what he does. I have lots of good friends and they do not give me much time to feel lonely. I go to lots of teas and some days have so many callers that I cannot even get away for my walk. These are not formal calls and I am very fond of them. We even play poker and parcheesi and manage to have a very good time of it. Oscar has left out on all sides and feels the loneliness very much. Even Fritz refused his invitation to spend his vacation with him in Müllheim. Please excuse this blotting paper, we are getting used to such things here. Atrocious prices and poor quality. Now that the best of goodies has come I want to repeat my thanks for your kind thoughts of me. Everything was greatly appreciated. Even the grocer sent the very best to be had. Even the butter is still good in spite of the hot weather. Please give Lord my love address and beg him to send me the letter which was returned. With love to all and hoping this will find you all well and Father cheered up I am as ever

affectionately yours Marion.

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[F5D11AZ], Letter from Marion Estelle Edison to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, November 12th, 1921

Title
[F5D11AZ], Letter from Marion Estelle Edison to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, November 12th, 1921

Author
Edison, Marion Estelle

Recipient
Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)

Mentioned

- Berger, Clara
- Stilwell, Alice
- Falk, Benjamin J
- Miller, Harry Frederick
- Edison, Edith Clarissa
- Oeser, Karl Oscar
- Potter, Frank Allen
- Edison, Thomas Alva

Date
1921-11-12

Type
Letter

Subject

- Edison-Miller family
- TAE personality and character
- Photographs and autographs
- Newspapers, books, other publications
- Litigation

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trained here and then sent all over Baden. This wing was given to the institution by a rich German-American. Now some good angel must have been watching over me on a certain afternoon when I decided to take a package of magazines to my friend Frl. Schutz who lived 25 years in England. She told me at once that she had heard of a very fine thing for me but that I must hasten if I wanted to have it as the Diakonissenhaus as this building is called was forced to give up all their spare rooms. It is awful here in Freiburg and people are living almost like sardines in a box. As I had no right to an apartment having the villa it was a great stroke of luck that I could live here in pension. We came at once to look at it but I was rather disgusted to find a room like a ball room and the only thing which pleased me is a perfectly lovely veranda entirely shut in with glass windows. As soon as the inspector came I found out that old Count Roeder who has his rooms above mine had two

Burgunderstr. 5
Freiburg
Baden
Germany

Nov. 12th 1921

My dearest Mina,

Since my card sent from Müllheim you know that I now have a home of my own. You know how often in life we think something is going to be perfectly lovely and afterwards we are grieved at being so disappointed, that never spoils my good time however when I am looking forward to something nice. To praise the day before it is evening as long as the sun shines although there is a German saying that you must not do it. It is rather difficult to explain what my new home really is then we have nothing like it at home. This is a beautiful building a gift from a very rich man to Protestant sisters who are

rooms made out of his bigone and now of course I am quite delighted that I followed his idea. I have a small but very pretty bed-room and my combination of drawing and sitting room quite delight all my friends. The food is excellent that German-American, blessing, spared no expense and had very good taste. The lovely view of the Black Forest mountains and the large park are two things which make my rooms very attractive. The veranda must be lovely in summer. It is too cold out there for use, but the Count has his heated so that my plants have a very nice place out there and can be seen from my drawing room. As I have my own furniture, china and silver I feel quite at home. The people here are awfully nice to me and my old friends do all they can to cheer me up. My week in Müllheim in the villa where I was packing my things for Freiburg was so awful that I feel certain than nothing worse can be in store for me in the future even if I live to be a hundred years old. Clara Berger as you already know is living with Oscar now. She looks just what she is, has dyed hair and dresses like a Paris Cocotte. I had an awful experience with her. She went one day to Freiburg shopping and Oscar and I were alone. I went to her bed to compare her mattress with some ticking which I had found out of which the horsehair had been taken. Under her mattress I found a lot of very valuable wash, one piece a hand made sofa pillow case which had been made in Irland was among them and could never be replaced. As all my old fashioned open work stockings, a theater cloak, all my brown stockings, about 9 meters of pink silk and lots of body wash, new gloves etc. were missing I knew who was the thief. I looked over her room and found lots of my things. I asked Oscar if he knew any thing about them and he gave me his word of honor that he knew nothing about them. I doubted him because he had the keys not only of my bed-room but my bureau drawers as well. The next day I came with a policeman who found more of my wash in a clothes basket. Now Mina dear just put yourself in my place. When Oscar, Clara Berger and the policeman were together, the policeman asked Clara B. why she took my wash, she said Herr Oberst (Oscar) gave it to

so much on my side that 6
even strange women said
a few friendly words to me
and usually said that they
hoped I could soon come
back to Müllheim. Of course
people are now more convinced
than ever that the story
about Oscar is true that he
arranged the burglary in our
villa so as to get my silver
away from me. This is perfect
nonsense because the whole
has been punished and I got
most of my silver back. Of
course he did a lot of things
the days we were dividing our
things but he considered half
of everything his which we
bought since we were married
although there is no doubt about
the things having been bought
with my money. I am sure you
are now a very busy woman
with all your Christmas shop-
ping to be done but could'nt
you spare a little of your
time for me after Christmas
before you go down south? You
have no idea how happy you
could make me. What I want
is this, your photograph
sitting in a chair with a crêpe
de Chine dress on with flowers
and a dark hat. Of course I
would value it still more if you

her! My blood almost
froze. There are moments in life
which we never forget and that
will be one of them for me. All
the old love which was still
in my heart for Oscar perished
in that moment. Even to rob me
for this woman that was really
too much to bear. I begged of
him not to take this woman
into our home until we were
divorced and our things se-
parated but he said he could
not get along without help any
longer and refused my request.
All my friends and my law-
yer too think it was the very
best thing which could have
happened. When they saw
through me that in spite of
my anger I still loved Oscar.
All said that I was much too
good to him. I have given
him so much that people
cannot understand me. Now
my heart is hardened and
his last letter I took no notice
of. He has gone out of my life
forever. It is no wonder. You
do not understand this, no
body does. Of course in such
a small town as Müllheim
every one knew the next day
about the policeman and
the things which had been
stolen. All people were disgus-
ted and public opinion was

signature was added. Then I took Falk to Vater's photograph taking standing with his hands in his pockets and one of his very loveliest of smiles. I want particularly to have him write on this picture "To my daughter Marion from her father Thomas A. Edison." Ever since the time when you were so near as Luzern and did not come to Müllhausen people are saying that I am not really Father's daughter, otherwise he would have visited me. It seems queer to have to legitimise myself but I don't very much like the idea of being taken for an impostor. I never mention Father myself although I am mighty proud of him. I gained some very good friends in Ringbu although for months no one new that I was related to Father. The two pictures which you sent some years ago Oscar mounted upon cardboard and I was quite unhappy about having to give them up. If you were to order two copies from Falk through the telephone and ask for thick pasteboard it would not be so much trouble then to add signatures and send them off to my new address. Another wish is to have Father's biography which Father sent us to Müllhausen some years ago. Oscar has this too. He said I belonged still to the family and he does not any longer and that I could get duplicates. I might write to Mr. Miller about the book but do be a dear and send me the photographs. They might turn up as a birthday greeting and that would make the day so much brighter. Poor Edith I have been thinking so much about her since Aunt Alice wrote me of Frank's death. I wrote her at once a long letter and was conscience stricken at the time at writing that I envied her. There are worse things than have those we love separated from us by death. I hope you and all the family are well and happy. I am so sorry to hear there are no new babies. When I come home for a visit I want to find a lot of nieces and nephews to welcome me. Much love to you and dear Father from your devoted and affectionate Marion.

Many many thanks for your last dear letter.

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[F5D11BA], Letter from Marion Estelle Edison to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, April 25th, 1922

Title
[F5D11BA], Letter from Marion Estelle Edison to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, April 25th, 1922

Author
Edison, Marion Estelle

Recipient
Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)

Mentioned

- Oeser, Friedrich
- Berger, Clara
- Edison Pioneers
- Jehl, Francis
- Oeser, Karl Oscar
- Edison, Thomas Alva
- Valentine, Edward Abram Uffington
- Hammer, William Joseph

Date
1922-04-25

Type
Letter

Subject

- Edison-Miller family
- TAE personality and character
- Photographs and autographs
- Newspapers, books, other publications
- Health and medicine

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1

Burgunderstr. 5
Freiburg, Baden,
Germany.

April 25th 1922.

Please tell Father that I was very much pleased to receive the "Edison Pioneers" and thank him for me. I have been studying the tiny pictures with a magnifying glass but can only make out Father, Mr. Jehl and Mr. Hammer.

Dearest Mina,

Nothing very important has happened to me since I last wrote but lots of small things have. That is of cource from the standpoint that things never seem half as bad as they were at the time they happened. As the villa is haunted in Müllheim I decided to sell it. I could never have been happy there after having seen Oscar living there with that woman. What I need is to get away from everything which reminds me of them. I had to go there for a few days to arrange matters and during the first week I burned my two nicest fingers on my right hand.

12-6616

2

The next day the fingers were such a sight that I almost fainted when I took a peep at them when the sister changed the bandage. There was a blister on my little finger as large as the finger itself and the next finger almost as bad. After 10 days I came home and went at once to our professor. The Diakonissenhaus has two professors and four doctors. This professor is a very famous man here in Germany, I will probably get that impression even if I did not know it when I get his bill. Any way he seems to have done the right thing although I mildly protested at having to wear a bandage which consisted mostly of salve for 6 weeks when he at last took the skin off no scar at all was to be seen. The skin is still red and very tender but in a month or two they say they will be quite white again. I am glad that it is over with. The pains lasted four days and four nights and then came the

weeks of helplessness when I could neither wash myself or dress my hair. I took daggers at the spirit lamp whichever I see it which caused all the trouble. The alcohol began to cook over which was bad enough but I in my excitement took an old napkin and tried to clap the tin lid over the burner. Of course the napkin caught fire and instead of dropping it on the table I did not let go of it until I got it to the floor a yard away. That is the thrifty Germanness of doing things. Better burn your hand which will heal again than burn a tablecloth or rug which wont. Great was the joy when I received word from the P. O. that there was a package for me from Orange and I had to go to the C. H. to open it. I thought at once that you had probably granted my request for home photographs for if you had sent a box of goodies they would have been sent to the freight C. H. Although I knew that I could not open anything with my bandaged hand I sailed off at once with a shawl straps and only hoped the best. A gift old C. H. official became quite angelic when I showed him my bandaged hand. He said it was the public's business to open their packages but in my case he would make an exception. A young official came and in taking off the two or three yards of twine he noticed who had sent the package. The pictures created quite a sensation and no "business as usual" until the young man began to tie them up again. He had a lot of trouble getting it tied up again but he smiled as sweetly as if I had done him the greatest favor and assured me that he had done it with the greatest pleasure. They are as enthusiastic about Father in Germany as ever. No trace can be found of the trouble Mr. Valentine made for us in 1911. Although my newspaper article could have been written by a first class reporter and made up of 2/3 fibs and 1/3 truth it did a lot of good here and articles very friendly in their tendency and pictures of Father often appear in the papers. When I wrote that article for "Der Tag

in the picture you sent us some years ago. People say you look like 35 but you must have been 10 years older. Your eyes are just like the Countess Potocki's whose immortal beauty is shining above my desk. Perhaps I would not have noticed the likeness if you had not cast your eyes to the side as she did.
I cannot half thank you for the pleasure you have given me by sending this collection of photographs. As I have received no answer to my last letter on the usual "Birthday letter" I felt that I had been forgotten at home and was very much cheered up at receiving such a token that it was not so. I know you must find it difficult to find time for letter-writing. It is a constant struggle to keep my friends satisfied. I have so much to do that the day is not half long enough for me. I am in a very nice set here and they are so sociable that they keep me busy. As I do not go out in

6

I understood for the first time in my life why reporters yield to the temptation to write so many harmless fibs. The plain facts are usually so awfully dry and besides they have often to write a long article when they know next to nothing what they are writing about. I have an article from a Brünn paper written in 1911 which is really a joke. It begins with the fact that Father was married in the early sixties. His oldest daughter Madeline who is a graduate of Bryn Mar married a short time ago Mr Major Doeser! Well it would certainly have been high time for Madeleine to have married if she was on her first matrimonial venture. Every one thinks the pictures are lovely and are very much interested. The large picture of Father with his sweetest smile and the one of Jock II are the favorites! Although it is not quite clear I am very fond of the picture of you old Father, he sitting, you just behind him with your hand on his shoulder. You are much more beautiful than

12-6616

the evening all social life is crammed into the afternoon as there are no ladies lunches here in Germany. Most people are as poor as church mice, particularly those who used to be rich so that no big affairs are given any more. But to dress as simply as possible so as to look as my friends do. My friend Countess Roedern wears a tailor-made suit from years old. Well that is not half as bad as some of my friends who are forced to live from their capital and do not know what is to become of them when it is all used up. Just think of it, Mina dear, Mr. Jordan has come into my life again. He is an old gentleman of 68 living with his sister Alma in Baden-Baden only a few hours from here. He came about 8 weeks ago to see me and we had a very nice day together. I would so liked to have married him if he had not been so old. I saw by his letters that he had hopes but I gave him 7 no encouragement as I think 20 years too much of a difference in our ages. He is a fine man and looks much younger but he is not in very good health and perhaps I would only have him for a few years and be again alone. I am going to call on his sister as soon as the weather gets a little better. Nothing but rain and snow for weeks. Please give Madelleine my love and please thank her for the pretty little X mas card she sent me. I am always very much pleased to receive any sign from home that I am not forgotten there. Oscar is sailing with his mistress. Fritz is juniors. Oscar took a room with twin beds and they slept together although the people in the pension knew that they were not married. Fritz refused to have anything to do with him until they took separate rooms and even then he cannot have much to do with them as he is a judge in a very high position. Fritz is quite unhappy about matters and I dont see why Oscar could not have gone with her somewhere else. My wounds are healing and I sleep a little better. Hoping this letter will find you all well and with much love to all, I am as always, Sincerely Marion.

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[F5D11BB], Letter from Marion Estelle Edison to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, May 9th, 1922

Title
[F5D11BB], Letter from Marion Estelle Edison to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, May 9th, 1922

Author
Edison, Marion Estelle

Recipient
Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)

Mentioned

- Edison (Thomas A.) Inc
- Oeser, Friedrich
- Berger, Clara
- Stilwell, Alice
- Rathenau, Emil
- Oeser, Karl Oscar
- Edison, Thomas Alva

Date
1922-05-09

Type
Letter

Subject

- Edison-Miller family
- Finances (TAE and family)
- World War I
- Financial operations (companies and organizations)
- Property

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I found out about Clara Berger. Of course the whole thing was an extortion. Oscar has become under this woman's influence a very bad man. That he lies makes him so dangerous. An old friend of his met him a short time ago and Oscar told him that he needed more money and of course to get his argument told him probably the whole string of lies about me. Just what he told this Herr Hilscher of course Fritz does not know but Oscar told Fritz that this man was going to write to Father asking him to help him. Fritz advised me to prepare him for such a letter. It is awful to think that my worries have no end. How awful it would be if you were to believe all the lies the tells of me. Of course Herr H. will write in good faith but I simply cannot understand Oscar. It is mere revenge because he has more than enough to live on. I can send you a letter from Fritz in which he writes that Oscar is very successful as an insurance agent. Besides that he has his

Burgunderstr. 5
Freiburg
Baden

May 5th 1922

My dearest Mina,

You will be surprised to hear from me so soon again but I am quite miserable and very much excited over a letter which I just received from Fritz. I would like to send you a part of his letter translated but as I am ill I cannot go to the P. O. to have this letter registered and so I shall keep it in order to send you it when needed. You remember Mina that I wrote that Oscar always wanted to get as much money out of me as possible and threatened me several times when the question was of money to write you of my ½ dozen lovers and he/she knows what else. Of these men he never said a word until

12-6617

pension and the interest on the money I gave him. If he were to sell the things he sent off before I got home and the things which he forced me to give him he would have a small fortune. She had two trunks full of furniture etc. and I had two of the very smallest although our furniture was bought and found the money which I saved up during the time we were engaged. I have a letter from Fritz in which he writes about Oscar having a bed-room with two beds in which he was living with the Berger and that he is supporting her. I shall send you this part of his letter translated so that you can see that I have told you just plain facts. Of course there is no use in troubling you if this Herr Hilscher does not write. If Oscar really needed money he would let this woman work for her living as she would have to do if she did not have him. She is only a servant even by law as she has to be insured for old age and sickness just like any other servant. Oscar wrote an awful letter to Aunt Alice which she sent to me. It contained two of his empty cards = I was so bad as he and he was going to kill himself. Aunt Alice loves me tremendously and is too loyal to believe such stories. Fritz advised Oscar not to let Hilscher write to Father. Oscar told him on no account to let me know that he wanted money from Father. Fritz has been from the first day on my side and the only excuse he can give for Oscar's actions is that he is no longer mentally normal. It is awful for us that Fritz is so far away. I would do anything to have a talk with him. Please send me Herr Hilscher's letter in case he write then I would like to answer that letter myself. The Germans hate the Americans as they think they would have won the war if the Americans had not entered it. Of course they want to get as much out of them as they can. I noticed that almost every day. I pay more than most people for everything I buy and am

right sort of man he will not tell such tales to a man about his child particularly as what he heard came from her divorced husband. So he writes at all it will probably be only a begging letter. Perhaps she is right. Very likely if Mr. Hilscher does not write Oscar will. You know he is money mad. His quarrel with Fritz was about money. I forgot to say that he will get about 85 000 mks as soon as I know how much the taxes are which I have to pay in selling the villa. The money is liable in the bank and will be sent as soon as I know how much his share is. I write this because he may write some lie in connection with this sum of money. Fritz wrote me that his income was higher than his so that Father has no cause to pity him or help him particularly after all the unhappiness he has caused me. All my friends are right and as queer as it sounds they all said about the same

5

cheated constantly. This new worry about Oscar will of course effect my sleep and that is the worst part of it. I am quite certain that Father will not give Oscar any money. This woman costs Oscar a lot of money as she is very expensively dressed and Oscar lives probably in dread of her leaving him if he does not give her everything she wants.

Later.

My letter seems quite like a patch-work quilt as I read it over and the writing is to match. Since I wrote it I have had my dinner and a call from my neighbor a very clever old lady 81 years old who has become a devoted friend. She has succeeded in getting my nerves almost quieted down to normal. I told her the whole thing and she says it is very likely this Herr Hilscher will not write at all or if he is the

thing although some of them do not know each other. They laughed at the thought of his killing himself. They all agreed that he would not shoot himself or leave this woman and then they said if he sees that there is no more money to be got out of me he will act very badly and be revengeful although I have drawn all my allowance for some time as I had lots of expenses here and had to replace so many things which I had given Oscar. I live very economically since you wrote that Father died has business worries. We are having bad times everywhere and I have no pity for Oscar or his mistress if they cannot drink champagne or use motor cars. Now that the awful expenses are over which were connected with Oscar and my process I am going to save up for a rainy day. Of course I could not take gallery seat at the theatre or do anything of that kind as I am well known as Father's daughter but when an insurance agent goes to the theater with a waitress I don't see why or in what way their reputation or social position can be hurt by taking seats which cost half as much as the best ones. The man who is living in our villa showed me a letter which Oscar had written him. He was delighted with Leipzig and he seemed to be having a fine time of it. Well I suppose he has got into debt and does not like to use any of his capital to pay them. People were shocked at his demanding or taking money from me. I am wondering what they will say if he really sends Father a begging letter. I thought I had written the last letter to you exclusively about Oscar, but it seems he does not want to enjoy any peace. I hope you received my last letter in which I thanked you for the lovely photographs which were a great delight to me. Yesterday I posted a paper with pictures of the family and Katherine. Are you really the lady trying to flirt with Father? Well I would never have recognised you. Much love to all. Ever affectionately marion

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[F5D11BC], Letter from Marion Estelle Edison to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, June 13th, 1922

Title
[F5D11BC], Letter from Marion Estelle Edison to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, June 13th, 1922

Author
Edison, Marion Estelle

Recipient
Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)

Mentioned

- Oeser, Friedrich
- Berger, Clara
- Hess, Mabel Davis
- Roedern, Siegfried von
- Oeser, Eugenie
- Oeser, Karl Oscar
- Miller, Grace A
- Miller, Mary Emily
- Edison, Thomas Alva

Date
1922-06-13

Type
Letter

Subject

- Edison-Miller family
- TAE health
- Finances (TAE and family)
- Newspapers, books, other publications
- World War I
- Health and medicine

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13 June 1922

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Burgunderstr. 5
Freiburg
Baden

June 13th 1922

My dearest Mina,

This German paper will seem queer to you but I want to get my letter off and do not like to take the time to hunt for the other sort. I can rarely find anything in my one and only closet under a half an hour. It serves for everything and there is everything in it from Coats to Jam. Miss Bess called a few days ago and brought me your letter and the beautiful cloth. You have no idea how delighted I was. I cannot half thank you for the pleasure you have given me. I was so sorry to have missed Miss Bess but I wrote to her at once to come to tea and she is coming day after to-morrow. I am looking forward with such pleasure to seeing her and hearing all the Clermont news. She spoke so affectionately of you in her letter that she must be very fond of you. It seems she has a horse in

13-6614

I shingen but she did not mention if she intends to make her home here. I speak English again almost as good as ever. Queer to say however I have an English accent in speaking German which I had almost entirely lost before I began to speak English so much. Many Americans call on me and even an Englishman wrote a short time ago and asked for permission to call. I am supplied with N.Y. and Newark papers, the latter brings the Orange news as well. Old Mr. Reichle, a German American, has written his daughter to send all the clippings she can find about Father. I am so glad his sons dear has ceased to send. and which she did for years. You have not mentioned her for such a long time, I am wondering why I am half hoping that my excited letter about Oscar never reached you. I was so unhappy at the thought that Oscar could even think of doing such a thing as begging Father for money which in the end was only wanted to support this woman in luxury, this woman who has caused me so much misery. Then I felt besides that Oscar would try to put some blame at least on me so as to excuse his guilt. Oscar has a higher income than

Fritz has and is in no need of money for himself. Fritz's last two letters I am going to translate and send you. I must ask you to excuse parts of them which are rather gossipy. Of course he would have left that out if he dreamed that you would ever see them. For plain, everyday letters we do not care much for Goethe's style of letter-writing. My poor nerves cannot be left in peace. Mrs. Deser wrote Fritz that she was greatly worried about Oscar. She wrote her such a queer letter full of contradictions and Fritz says that it is his opinion that he is not in his right mind. How much that would mean to me if he is right. Several people have said that in spite of everything that I still love Oscar. Perhaps they are right then sometimes I am afraid too that it is true. I know perfectly well that he acts like a very bad man and has treated me atrociously but still when he sent me such a loving birthday letter I was quite touched although of course I never feel that I could ever go back to him. How again at hearing that he is perhaps not quite right in his mind I feel sorry for him. He is his own worst enemy poor man and this woman is a vampire who is leading him to his mental destruction. Now I can forgive his story of my having lovers, perhaps he believes it himself. Yes I have never deceived him. I fell in love with an officer in my loneliness after being away from Oscar more than a year and I told him so. This could have happened to any woman after being treated so shamelessly by her husband and that after 20 years of perfect happiness. Men must be much more sensual than we are to give up so much quiet happiness and a peaceful home for such women. German morals are very rotten since the war began, still that is no excuse for Oscar. Poor Mina I suppose you are sick and tired of the very name of Oscar. My friend Countess Roeder won't hear of his name being mentioned and says the wound will not heal until I never speak anything more about him. If any of the family come over I would so love to have them come to see me. Aunt Mary wrote of Grace coming over but that was a long time ago. I have written twice during the last months, besides my gun powder letters one to thank you for the photographs. It seems queer that you had not yet received that letter when you left for Chautauqua Dec. 27th. How is the best of all fathers and is he still worried over his financial affairs? None of the Americans here have ever seen the pictures I have of the family and are greatly interested. I will write again when I have seen Miss Cass, she will send you some message I am sure. Much love to all and again many thanks for the lovely cloth

ever lovingly
Marion.

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[F5D11BD], Letter from Marion Estelle Edison to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, July 6th, 1922

Title
[F5D11BD], Letter from Marion Estelle Edison to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, July 6th, 1922

Author
Edison, Marion Estelle

Recipient
Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)

Mentioned

- Oeser, Friedrich
- Berger, Clara
- Hess, Mabel Davis
- Earl, Elizabeth F
- Rathenau, Walther
- Oeser, Karl Oscar
- Edison, Thomas Alva

Date
1922-07-06

Type
Letter

Subject

- Edison-Miller family
- Celebrations (anniversaries, birthdays, holidays)
- Finances (TAE and family)
- Deaths and funerals
- Reforms
- Foreign affairs
- Social customs, norms, values
- Crime and justice
- Health and medicine

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are so many things which I would like to wish you for your coming new year of life. Above all health and contentment. I suppose we must not ask too much of life. Supreme happiness with all wishes fulfilled would perhaps not be a good thing for us. Since my last letter in which I thanked you for the lovely tea cloth I have seen Miss Bess. I wrote her to let me know when she came to Freiburg the next time as I wanted very much to see her. She came about a week later, brought me a lot of fruit and seems to be a dear little soul with a very kind heart. We had such a nice chat together. We were together some hours and was quite happy to hear all the home news. Even at that I thought of some questions which I had forgotten after she left. I think I had better make a list and take it to Ihringen with me when I return her call. She asked me to wait until she had gotten her house a little more in order. She was very

Burgunderstr. 5
Freiburg
Baden

July 6th 1922

ans.

My dearest Mina,

Only the thought that it is your birthday has given me energy enough to start a letter. The heat is something awful, even the nights are hot which is quite rare in Europe. Of course with my poor brom brains I would not have remembered your birthday unless I had had a birthday book. Mrs. Earl gave me one years again with a dedication so disagreeable to me that I am often tempted to tear out the page. She writes = "To my dearest child from her ever loving Mother Feb. 18th '94." What do you think of that? I dislike to think of her and will come back to you. There

12-6618

nice and sympathetic about my troubles. She thinks that there is no danger of Father sending any money to Oscar. This woman has every luxury. I cannot say that of myself. Not that I could not afford it, thanks to Father's kindness to me, but I am afraid to spend much money. My bonds are worth today just $200 and I am entirely dependant on Father. Who knows how long he can give me $200 a month and what then if I live to be a hundert years old which is not only possible but very likely? A professor who is a specialist for nerve troubles examined me a few weeks ago and said that I was in perfect health. He said it is quite out of the question for my nerves to get quieted down until I stop thinking of Oscar. In most divorce cases the thing is usually over with by the time a woman gets her divorce but it is really awful to think of Oscar still living with this bad woman and she being made happy though[4] my money. I showed Miss Hess Fritz's letter and she was simply horrified. In her last note to me she speaks of Oscar as "that rascally husband of yours". One thing makes my life very bright in spite of my troubles I meet many Americans and have become very good friends with several. I speak English as well as ever so that my "gift of the gab" has come to light again in my native tongue. A young Englishman who did not like my German shoes and hats will not let me buy either without him and the "kiss curls" he makes me wear proved fatal for he thinks he is in love with me. His grandfather was a German of Kupferberg Gold, Champagne fame and he is such a nice, clean, charming fellow that I would like to marry him if I were younger. I am often wondering if men above 40 cannot fall in love. None ever do in me. All my admirers are under forty. Perhaps it is because I look so much younger than I

had no time to talk about 6
the weather. He says that
the Germans are becoming
beggars and that things are
getting worse every day. Miss
Hess told me that butter etc.
is dearer here than at home.
Lots of society women have
now to help support their
family. One of them ~~are~~ is mak-
ing me some sheets and pillow
cases. I would so love to go
home with Miss Hess for a
visit, we talked a lot of it
but in the first place it
would cost a lot of money
and in the second place
I would lose my lovely little
apartment. I have spoken
to the manager of the Diakon-
nissenhaus about it and
he says that the "Dwelling
Office" (new since the war)
would not allow my apart-
ment to remain unoccupied
more than 6 weeks or so. The
one good thing about the
"Dwelling Office" is that they
wont let you be set on the
street. No landlord can
force you to leave. Over 3000
families are waiting for
apartments and some have

2 5

really am. All people say I
look between 35 and 40. At
15 I looked 20 which seems
queer. I am going soon to
Baden-Baden to see Miss
Jordan and her brother. The
latter ought to have been
placed first but I cannot call
on a man. He will be able to
tell me all about the Rathe-
nau funeral as he must
have been there. His murder
was an awful shock and
things in Germany are in
an awful state. We try to
forget the Bolsheviki but
we are reminded of them
when anything like this
happens. Day before yester-
day without a word of warn-
ing all the shops and
factories were forced to
stop working and to close.
About 4 o'clock there was a
big parade and stormy scenes
when speeches were made.
The police were either help-
less or in sympathy with
the mob. Judge Waltz, my
neighbors son, called yester-
day and you can be sure we

12-6-68

been waiting for over a year. People are forced to rent their furnished rooms and the nice things about two families cooking in one kitchen is a standing joke. If any of the family come over please induce them to come to Freiburg to see me. It is perfectly lovely here. "The Passion Play" and the "Richard Strauss Week" attract lots of Americans and English. Even without such things Freiburg is well worth seeing for it's own sake besides Basle and Baden-Baden are very near. Now Mina dear please promise me something if ever any of the family go only to France or England please let me know of it beforehand. I shall not be in the least offended that they do not come to see me but in 6 weeks I could go anywhere to them, it would not cost so much and I would not lose my home. I long so much to see Father again. Now that I speak English again so well I feel quite myself again and in no fear of shocking as I was on our journey in 1911. My one hope is that he will outrun the other Edisons and live longer than any of them. Later I may have a piece of luck and have an apartment of my own and be no longer a boarder. Then I can come home again on a nice long visit. Many houses are being built so that in a few years things will probably be getting better. I would like to know how you are celebrating your birthdays. I always think of Father on his birthday as that date is just as well fixed in my mind as Xmas or the "Glorious Fourth". I suppose you have a more peaceful birthday than his friends allow him to enjoy. With love to all

Affectionately yours

Marion.

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[F5D11BE], Letter from Marion Estelle Edison to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, October 17th, 1922

Title
[F5D11BE], Letter from Marion Estelle Edison to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, October 17th, 1922

Author
Edison, Marion Estelle

Recipient
Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)

Mentioned

- Oeser, Friedrich
- Berger, Clara
- Hess, Mabel Davis
- Edison Pioneers
- Roedern, Siegfried von
- Stilwell, Alice
- Rathenau, Emil
- Earl, Elizabeth F
- Oeser, Eugenie
- Oeser, Karl Oscar
- Edison, Thomas Alva

Date
1922-10-17

Type
Letter

Subject

- Edison-Miller family
- Photographs and autographs
- Newspapers, books, other publications
- Reforms
- General economic and business conditions

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11 Freiburg Oct. 17th 1922

My dearest Mina,

Frl. Hess has just written to say that she will come tomorrow morning to say good bye. Although I am expecting the workmen at any moment to repair my Welte piano I will see how far I can get with my letter before they come. You know they are never in a hurry in spite of the enormous wages they get. We are all half afraid of them, the government particularly and they are spoiled in every way. I have gotten quite used to treating them like gentlemen and have even found out which sort of cigars they like best. I like the prospects of this afternoon, you would hardly think it possible that I am going with a man friend to all the coal yards in Freiburg and beg for some coal. I will put on my very oldest dress and let my friend do the talking on account of my English accent. Today the sun is shining into my rooms as I have east windows so that it is not as cold as usual. Yesterday I sat in my coat all the afternoon and two friends who came to tea kept their coats on until they had had two or three cups of tea. We have so little coal that they only send us steam when it is near zero. Now I have decided to buy a little stove for my bedroom but first I must see if I can get any coal. The famous German forests are a thing of the past. Real coal is so scarce and so dear is a calamity for that class of people who are understimulated as they feel the cold more than others. That Frl. Hess is coming home so soon will perhaps be a surprise to you. I think she is rather afraid of what may happen this winter. Things are in a very bad state. I read in the paper yesterday that there was a riot in Berlin and some killed and many wounded. We feel rather safer down here but still I heard some awful things which some men of the lower classes said as I was waiting to pay my taxes. From what you write things do not seem much better at home. If I can possibly find time I will try to find some nice little book this afternoon for Frl. Hess. As far as I can see you can't find anything

12-6/12

you ever wait but simply take
what you can get. She is as you
say a very kind hearted little
woman. I met her the other day
and she had at least three little
baskets in which she had brought
fruit to her different friends. She
has a sweet little home in Ving-
en which is well known for its
vineyards. I am sorry to say
that we have not seen much of
each other. She was away for a
long time and only returned a
few weeks ago. Hasinger must
have bored her after life in America.
I want her very much to tell you
that she has seen my brother-in-
law's letters so that you can
see that I have not exaggerated
about Oscar and his mistress.
Those two have cheated me out
of thousands of things which I
can never replace. Perhaps I wrote
you about a piece of luck I had.
I saw a cardboard box with old
postal cards and my letters to O.
which they had forgotten to take
with them. As I had so much time
while my burned fingers were
healing I looked over the letters
and cards and at the bottom
I found hidden the picture of
Father taken when he was a
very young man and which I
knew Oscar had taken away.
She wanted wanted everything
connected with Father so as to
sell such things which were
personally connected with him.
She insisted upon my giving him
the two volumes of Fathers Life, his
big photograph, she took out of my
desk a package of all the letters
I ever received from him and
three cards with Father's auto-
graphs. After drink Oscar's great
passion was money, both developed
late in life. His passion for money
and the fear of losing his mistress
if he could not give her the luxuries
she wanted made him get the
plan in his head of asking Father
for money. Fritz wrote me that it
was Oscar's idea and that he had
more than enough which I had
better write you. I wrote him why
he thought that he (Oscar) was so
high and he said because he
had spent so much money for this
Clara Berger. By the way last Jan
trimmed gown which I so much
admired when I saw her one day
in Müllheim was trimmed with
my fur which of course I did not
know at the time. When I went to
Müllheim a few weeks ago to beat
my curtains, furs etc. I missed
at once all my mink fur which
consisted of a narrow skirt trim-
ming, a muff and enough to trim
a hat. I knew at once where she
had her furs from. I recall every
few weeks things which are miss-
ing and then I get to brooding again

is seen often[6] at the swell restaurants with this girl who is always very elegantly dressed. Please thank Father for sending me Hilscher's letter. I was so pleased at his remark that I ran with the letter straight up to the Countess although I knew I would only have the pleasure of hearing "Well I told you so!" I was so very pleased with your letter too, Mina dear and I thank you with all my heart for taking so much of your time for such a nice newsy letter. This letter I did not get finished yesterday in spite of the fact that the Welte factory phoned that the workman could not come. He is coming this morning and I do hope he will have finished before Frl. Hess comes. Two callers (morning calls are the fashion here) and three telephone calls kept me busy and my letter is rather the worse for it. Words left out and words repeated are always a sign that I have not been able to concentrate my mind. I am so very glad that my new American friends hail from Newark. Their daughter sends over Oscar's injustice[5] and cannot sleep. The last thing which I realized was missing was a tablecloth with a fringe with Mamma's monogram large enough for twelve. I simply cannot understand any one being as mean as that but that is only one of hundreds of cases. I am so glad that Mrs. Oeser is so nice to me. She was entirely on Oscar's side until he played her that ugly trick with her apartment. To think of his wanting to force her to exchange her apartment for one in a big noisy city like Leipzig and then to live with him and his mistress. She wrote me a very friendly card a few days ago and now understands why I refused to go back to Oscar. I cannot see why I worried that Oscar could have any success with his begging letter. Why even my enemy would not give him money to squander on a woman like that. A begging letter is not considered horrible among officers Count Rhedern told me but the old gentleman trembled ~~for~~ with excitement at the thought of a man asking for money for his mistress from the father of his divorced wife. Whole families have to live on Oscar's income and he

12-6612

them papers every week so that I keep posted as to the Orange news. I felt quite homesick to hear that you had all been to Chautauqua this summer. I always had a longing to see the place again. I was so very happy there in my girlhood days and it was so very much my taste. Aunt Alice was very much pleased with the Edison Pioneers" a little book which I asked to have sent her. I wonder if Father dear knows that the old Menlo Park house was burned down several years ago. It came as a shock to me as I was very fond of the place. Now I must close my letter and dress my hair and do a thousand and one other things. I have the impression that I work like lightning but still I never quite get all the things done which I have to do. These awful transparent stockings are awful in every way. I never dare go to a shoe shop without putting on a new pair and then I dare them until there is no more darn to them and that is a robbery to my time which makes me quite wild. Why mina just think of your not knowing who Paul Jordan is. He is one of the nicest men we met in Berlin when we were there the year of the Paris Exposition. Then you met him again in 1911*. You wrote of his faithfulness to me, I even remember what you wrote about his speaking of me with tears in his eyes and his never having married. Mrs. Earls choice was Charles Edison the son of a very rich Jew and a Lady-in-waiting to Queen Victoria. She ran away with him as her parents were opposed to the match. As they lived in Spain she was very happy as old Mr. Edison must have been a very nice man. Well he was not my choice even if he was Mrs. Earls and I really went home to get rid of him. With love to all Ever affectionately

Marion.

* You met Mr. Jordan at the Rathenaus's dinner.

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[F5D11BF], Letter from Marion Estelle Edison to Edison (Thomas A.) Inc, Harry Frederick Miller, November 30th, 1922

Title
[F5D11BF], Letter from Marion Estelle Edison to Edison (Thomas A.) Inc, Harry Frederick Miller, November 30th, 1922

Author
Edison, Marion Estelle

Recipient

- Edison (Thomas A.) Inc
- Miller, Harry Frederick

Mentioned
Edison, Thomas Alva

Date
1922-11-30

Type
Letter

Subject

- Edison-Miller family
- TAE personality and character
- Finances (TAE and family)
- General economic and business conditions
- Financial operations (companies and organizations)

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Burgunderstr. 5
Freiburg
Baden

Nov. 30th 1922

Dear Mr. Miller,

Your letter of Nov. 15th just received. Our letters crossed each other as I wrote you a short time ago. Thanks to an American friend who goes to Bâle every month I am able to answer all your questions. The $200 monthly depot to my credit in Swiss francs and what I have been able to save brings 3%. Mr. Reichle brought over my account and a Bank here tested the rates of exchange for the different months and found all that they were correct. I draw the money through checks so that the Swiss Bank never changes any Swiss money into German. The Germans open all letters sent to foreign Banks so that I did not want to ask for my account through the mail. I waited for some one to turn

like this. Old Mr. Reichle who could go to the Bank and get my account. I never exchange any Swiss money these days but I saw in the paper that yesterday the Swiss franc was worth about 1400 mks. That is bad enough but it will be still worse if France carries out her threats. As it means ruin to have your money in Germany I am living from the money I got for my house but it is now almost entirely gone so I asked Mr. Reichle to bring over some Swiss money which I shall not change until all my German money is gone. Mr. Miller I am somewhat worried about my future and I would be so grateful to you if you would speak to my father and let me know what he thinks. I do not want to be trouble such a busy man as he is with such a long letter or ask him to answer it. A few words from you on the subject even if unfavorable would mean a great deal to me and I would be very grateful to you for any trouble you may put to on my behalf. Up to 3 months ago life

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was very cheap. Here in Germany for people who had American money. Now the prices here are for many things very much higher than in other countries and all the necessaries are between 1 000 and 2 000 times higher than they were before the war. My German government Bonds which used to be worth about $1 00000 are now worth $1 0 and I have to pay 10% (10%) interest when I draw the interest on them. That means ruin to millions of old people and single women unable to work who had their money in bonds. I possess now almost nothing except the money I have saved up in Bâle which is a little more than $1 000. It gave me a great scare and the impression remains when I heard that Father's factory is closed and that he is having business troubles. I am trying to be as economical as possible so as to save up for the future. If I should live to 70 or even 100 as so many Edisons might outlive my money as do many Germans are doing. A friend of mine told me that if she lived a year longer she would have to hang herself. I am always asking myself how much longer Father will be able to give me $2 00 per month and if not if there is any hope of a small income until my days are ended. Mr. Reichle says that if I economize in every way that I could save up enough to live upon in about 6 years. What I am afraid is that Father some day will have to cut down my allowance before I have saved enough up. Poor man he has often seen such hard times that I can readily believe that he has not the millions people think he has. How often I have to pay for those famished millions. Being treated as a foreigner and so often feeling homesick I long to go home but Americans say that life is very expensive at home and so I could not live on my $2 00 a month, still less save up for old age. I have been interrupted many times since I began my letter that I am wondering if I have made myself clear. With kindest regards and fondest love to Father, I remain,

Yours sincerely

Marion E. Oser-Edison.

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[F5D11BG], Letter from Marion Estelle Edison to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, January 28th, 1923

Title
[F5D11BG], Letter from Marion Estelle Edison to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, January 28th, 1923

Author
Edison, Marion Estelle

Recipient
Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)

Mentioned

- Oeser, Friedrich
- Berger, Clara
- Hess, Mabel Davis
- Roedern, Siegfried von
- Miller, Harry Frederick
- Wilhelm II (Germany)
- Oeser, Eugenie
- Brigham, Sarah W
- Oeser, Karl Oscar
- Edison, Thomas Alva

Date
1923-01-28

Type
Letter

Subject

- Edison-Miller family
- Finances (TAE and family)
- Newspapers, books, other publications
- Politics and government
- World War I
- General economic and business conditions

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house I go over and throw my letters in it. I found out after a long time that a batch of letters and cards never reached their destination and since then two cards in envelopes which cost the same postage as letters never turned up either. They were orders for cigarettes and a part of a coffee machine. After waiting two weeks I wrote and tried as mildly as possible to tell them what I thought of them for keeping me waiting so long. In this way I found out that they had never received my cards. Of course our porter simply destroyed the cards for the sake of the stamps. In a house where almost 200 people live it would pay to steal the stamps. I am glad I knew of this little trick before Christmas as friends would have been very much offended if they had received no thanks for their Christmas remembrances. To think of the Germans having changed so. Miss Brigham used to say that Germany was the only continental country where foreigners got back the right change. My "new poor" friends do not write as often as they used to do as stamps have become a luxury. A letter used to cost 1/10 of a mark now it cost 50 mks. and the price is soon to be raised again. Letters to foreign countries cost as much as a silk lined

Burgunderstr. 5
Freiburg, Baden Jan. 28th 1923

My dearest Mina,

Since your note which Miss Hess brought me I have had no news from home. I wrote to thank you for the beautiful tea cloth. And then I wrote a letter which I asked Frl. Hess to give you. I mention this as letters do not always reach their destination. I felt glad that one letter at least would not go astray. To say that letters go astray is putting it in a charitable way. The right word would be stolen. How I would like to let the people at home know that it is a risk to send paper money to their relatives here in their letters. Many post office officials here have been punished for stealing such letters and how many more there probably are who have not been found out. The Diakonissenhaus where I am living has it's own letter box and if it is raining and I think I would like a nice long walk without going out of the

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crêpe de Chine ball dress did before the war began. Food and living in general have gone up still higher and it make me miserable when I think of the privation and misery of so many thousands of people who have on account of the high taxes less to live on than they had when things were cheap. When the weather is around zero I feel pretty mean walking around so well nourished and rosy in a fur coat and so many men who are mostly half starved students having no over-coats to wear. Now I am coming to a more cheerful subject. It made me very happy to receive Christmas Greetings from Glenmont and I thank you so much for sending them. I hope you received my card, it was not half pretty enough but it was the best I could find. Please thank our darling of a father for sending me Life and Harpers Weekly instead of the two magazines. Some American friends here have only magazines too so that I thought Life and Harpers Weekly would be a nice change for us and besides it is quite impossible to find time to read so many magazines. I had a most delightful surprise day before yesterday when I received word that there was a box for me at the custom house. Why it almost took my breath away to see so many delightful things together. With a few exceptions none of the things are to be had here. You would have laughed if you could have seen my delight over the sugar. I bless you or the man who thought of putting it in. We are allowed only two pounds a month and not a spoonful more as we cannot import any foreign sugar as almost no one could pay the price. As the Diakonissenhaus has my food cards they keep about one pound of sugar for sweets and I receive the other pound which has to last a month. As I bake my own cake and often have guests to tea of course a pound of sugar is next to nothing as I like my coffee well sweetened. Well I have to do what the others do. I bake my cake with a very little sugar and a lot of saccarine and use margarine instead of butter when the latter is not to be had. Poor old Count Roedern upstairs eats Margarine on his bread because he cannot afford butter. Charles and Co. must be very first class grocers and all the things I have tried as yet are delicious. I have arranged the things like a German Christmas table and it looks awfully pretty.

out to, so he writes oftener than
is good for me of Oscar's bad
conduct. A short time ago Fritz
sent me a letter he had received
from Mrs. Oeser in which she
was greatly disgusted with
Oscar. Mrs. Oeser knows that
Clara Berger is living with him
and that he has to support her.
Clara Berger sent Mrs. Oeser a
bottle of toilet water and a cake
at Christmas in Oscar's box. Mrs.
Oeser was just great, she wrote
and thanked him for the things
he had sent her which nowa-
days is almost always food, say-
ing that she did not know
anyone by the name of Clara
Berger. This woman only wants
to win Mrs. Oeser over to their
side. Then she wrote of one of Oscar's
intriguing lies which is a thing
he never would have done before
he came under this bad woman's
influence. Fritz as I have told
you will have nothing to do
with him but Oscar is never
tired of trying to force him to
be reconciled to the life he is lead-
ing. Mrs. Oeser wrote that Oscar
had sent her two envelopes,
one was addressed to his new
address the other was without
an address. He said the address-
ed envelope she could use to
write him a letter, the second
he begged her to send closed
after putting a sheet of paper in
it to Fritz in Leipzig where both

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and dainty. Thank you many
times dearest Mind and Father
dear too for sending me this box of
goodies. It was a great treat in
itself and then it made me so
happy to know that you had
thought of me. Miss Hess gave
you probably all the scanty news
and nothing of importance has
happened since she left. I sleep
better and am not as nervous
as I was as you can see by my
writing. I told Miss Hess of a
man I was very tempted to marry
she advised me not to do so as
he is much younger than I
am. It is too bad then he is a
fine fellow, will be a college
professor in a few years and is
the one man among those who
want to marry me who really
loves me. I am afraid he will
keep me from marrying any
one else as he says he will not
give up hope. He is good for my
nerves and helps me in every
way he can. He arranged with
Oscar about the villa money,
then he had the usual fights
with the tax gatherers which
ended for me successfully, then
he got coal for me when I never
in the world could have gotten
any myself and then last not
least he refuses flat to hear Oscar's
name mentioned. Fritz must
have some one to pour his heart

12-6636

are lying and to beg Fritz as she did not know his address to deliver it to him personally. Of course Mrs. Oesen did not think for a moment of doing such a thing. Sometimes I fancy Oscar must be half crazy to have changed so. It must surely mean to have so many such affairs. I decided to leave no quarrelling when I married but perhaps it was a mistake that I did not make a red hot row when the first of his love letters from Strasbourg fell into my hands by mistake. Mrs. Oesen now understands why I could not stand Oscar any longer. She wrote me a lovely Xmas card signed "your loving mother." I have always been very fond of her and it added to my misery to think that she thought me unforgiving. Mina I am very much worried about my future, not my near future but the days to come. If I should live to be one of those ancient Edisons. I have been so many women who have outlived their capital that I simply dread that date as full of misery. Poor Father it seems to me down on his luck that I dread his cutting down my allowance. I got this impression from a letter I received from Mr. Miller. I would so like to know if things are really as bad as they seem. I have agued up over $1 000 which is safely in Bale. I had a long talk with an old American Mr. Radcliffe. He knows how much I need to live upon and he says that in 6 years I could save up enough to give me an income upon which I could live in Germany comfortably. I wrote to Mr. Miller in answer to his letter about my allowance and asked him to speak to Father on the subject for it is very unpleasant to be so very economical as I now force myself to be. I am very comfortable in my home since I have my own stove but I never travel, never drive in a motor car, never buy anything which is not strictly necessary. I economise in many ways which make life so very much less attractive. I love books flowers and the theatre but instead of having them I economise and save the money up for a rainy day. Sometimes I feel I am growing to be what they call close fisted and that is only because I do not know if I shall have enough to live upon when I get old. My bonds are as good as worthless and I have lost the right to my widows pension through my divorce. Prices are crazily high in Germany and I could save up much more if so many things were not dearer than in other

countries. Life here in the Dictators
seems to be very cheap that is
one good thing I note to you that
I was worried but you never
mentioned it in your answer.
Mr. Miller has ~~not~~ not answered
as yet either. Perhaps Father does
not know himself how long he
can give me $2.00 a month but.
even an unfavorable answer is
better than none at all. In any
case I must hope for the best
and perhaps I shall live to be so
awfully old. Things are in a very
bad state in Germany and it is
not very easy to hate a christian
spirit toward William II. We all
hate and despise him. Think
of this heartless man being in
such high spirits when millions
of Germans are suffering such
misery. Miss Best was right
to go home. We do not know
what is going to happen in
Bavaria. Then comes the misery
of the people in the Ruhr district.
The poverty here is appalling.
People bury their dead in their
back yards because they can-
not pay the funeral expenses.
Some towns pay the expenses
of a funeral so as to keep the
dead from burying their dead
without a coffin. Children can-
not go to school because they
have no shoes and consumption
is spreading rapidly because
the food is almost entirely without

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fab. My letter would be almost endless if I were to tell of the things I see. My letter may reach you about Gabriel's birthday if so please tell him I sent kind [illegible] best wishes for a happy and healthy new year of life. We seem to keep very well for I never hear of his seeing sick. I wonder if he still suffers from dyspepsia (if that is the right word). I hope you are going to Florida this year for I always get a nice long newsy letter on my birthday if you are down there where you probably have more time for writing. With much love to all and hoping you are all well I am as ever,

Affectionately yours

Marion.

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[F5D11BH], Letter from Marion Estelle Edison to Thomas Alva Edison, February 8th, 1926

Title
[F5D11BH], Letter from Marion Estelle Edison to Thomas Alva Edison, February 8th, 1926

Author
Edison, Marion Estelle

Recipient
Edison, Thomas Alva

Date
1926-02-08

Type
Letter

Subject

- Edison-Miller family
- Awards & honors/clubs & societies

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526 Park Ave.
East Orange

Feb. 8th 1926

Dearest Father,

How I would love to be down in your earthly paradise on your birthday and give you my good wishes personally but as this is not to be I must be content with sending you my birthday greetings on a card. Your needs and wishes are so few that it is almost impossible to find anything in the form of a present which would give you the least bit of pleasure. We are all so devoted to you that I am sure

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that you feel that all our good wishes for your birthday are sincere and come from loving hearts. Much love to you and Mother and all sorts of good wishes.

Ever lovingly

Marion.

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[F5D11BI], Letter from Marion Estelle Edison to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, March 21st, 1926

Title
[F5D11BI], Letter from Marion Estelle Edison to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, March 21st, 1926

Author
Edison, Marion Estelle

Recipient
Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)

Mentioned

- Edison, Madeleine
- Edison, Theodore Miller
- Edison, Ann Osterhout (Mrs Theodore M.)
- Insull, Samuel
- Hildebrand, William

Date
1926-03-21

Type
Letter

Subject

- Edison-Miller family
- Travel (TAE and family)
- Property

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Document ID
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through taking sun baths in Germany. At the Diakonissenhaus there was a large veranda enclosed in glass where women with as little on as possible were exposed for hours to the rays of the sun. A German doctor told me that chlorosis and ailments like it are unknown in tropical countries where the whole body of the natives are exposed to the sun. This reminds me of a perfectly absurd reception which my best friend Mrs. Hermes used to give me. Being such an intimate friend I was often shown up to her bed-room and found her lying on a quilt on her balcony behind the vases without one stitch on her. Her baby is expected these days and I am worried about her as she is over thirty and it is her first baby. I wrote her yesterday my new address so that they can cable me to Norwalk if the baby is born after April 1st. This is the girl who was married last April. The Germans are more prolific than we are I am afraid. We must not give up hope about Theodore and Ann for there are lots of people who have children after being married for years. A friend of a friend of mine was married thirteen years when her first baby made it's appearance. You probably know of such cases among your own acquaintances. Think of the Queen of Holland for example. Juliana appeared when

526 Park Ave.
East Orange
Mar. 21st 1926

Mother dear,

This is certainly a day to cheer one up, glorious sunshine, warmer weather and I even heard a bird sing a few notes this morning to remind us that spring is near. Ever since my last letter to you written a little over a month ago I have been hoping for an answer but I will not wait any longer for I think you will want to know our plans. First of all I want to thank you for your telegram on my birthday. I do not suppose that you find much quiet for writing letters with those three active boys around you. They certainly make things lively. I feel sure that Madeleine and they will be greatly benefited by their stay in Florida for I have seen wonders done

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every one had given up all hope for an heir to the throne. I have had a piece of very good luck in being able to sub-rent my apartment for April 1st and am leaving on that day for Norwalk. Mr. Hildebrandt has arranged for the removal. Things are to be packed on the 31st and the van will leave at 5 o'clock the next day as it is quite a long journey up there. Goltermann has a position for April 1st and I am to have another chauffeur, not a combination of cook and butler but one of chauffeur, gardener and houseman. My house will be entirely electric and I can hardly wait for the time to come when I can unpack the things Mr. Insull has sent me from Chicago. As a birthday present he gave me an electric range and an electric washing machine and when he was here to say good bye on Thursday as he is going to England he said I was to have an electric refrigerator as soon as he gets back in May. He must be all-powerful in those factories for a man called at my cottage the day after the range got there so as to explain all about it. This man is going to send me a woman as soon as it is ready for use to show me how to cook on it. Another friend has given me a lot of electrical things

too so that it will be a real Edison cottage. The first month there will be quite horrible as the workmen will be in the house and you know what that means. I am not looking forward with much pleasure to having the partition torn down for the dirt and dust will get on everything as there are no doors on the first floor as the house is heated by a pipeless furnace. I must tell you why I let my good Goltermann go. Do you know Mother that that man feel so in love with the country up there that he wanted to buy the land on the brook just across the road from my cottage. It would have been some cheap old schack (is that the way it's spelled?) which would have been an eye sore to me and have quite spoiled my property. Besides he wanted me to make a contract with him for three years. Miss Reitter could not find the duplicate key to my vault which I asked you to take care of last summer. I ought to have it at once as I must take a new one in Norwalk for my silver. Living alone I must not have anything valuable in the house. I was in a hurry when I was at Glenmont asking her about it and if she cannot find it I must wire you to kindly let her know where she can find it. If I cannot give up the keys I shall have to rent it for another year and do not need it. I have just made my will which is the only bright side of getting run over in New York! Love to all, especially to you and Father dear,

affectionately
Marion.

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[F5D11BJ], Letter from Marion Estelle Edison to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, Thomas Alva Edison, March 14th, 1927

Title
[F5D11BJ], Letter from Marion Estelle Edison to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, Thomas Alva Edison, March 14th, 1927

Author
Edison, Marion Estelle

Recipient

- Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)
- Edison, Thomas Alva

Mentioned

- Litterst, Mary J (Mrs Leopold H.)
- Edison, William Leslie
- Edison, Edith Clarissa

Date
1927-03-14

Type
Letter

Subject

- Edison-Miller family
- Travel (TAE and family)
- Health and medicine

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THE NORWALK GENERAL HOSPITAL
NORWALK, CONNECTICUT

Mar. 14th 1927

Dear Father, dear Mother,
There have been so many of the family here that I thought in their letters to you that they would keep you posted as to my condition. However my last telegram will show you that everything is favorable although I would not know it if I had not been told. To me it has all been a nightmare and now after more than 3 weeks of it my wound is being kept open and I am very weak and depressed. They make me sit up as much as possible on account of the drainage and I really do not feel up to it. The nurses are wild when I cry from depression because my temperature goes up but I lose my nerve at times and am wondering what is coming next. I had a very close call but had the good luck to have a doctor who knew at once what was the matter. Of course when he told me the cavity was inflamed it was nonsense but he did not want to frighten me. I suppose you were surprised when I passed this on to

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THE NORWALK GENERAL HOSPITAL
NORWALK, CONNECTICUT

you. Then he told me his second prairie fib when he said he would have to have me at the hospital for observation. I was too ill to remember much. Two strong men took hold of me at the cottage, then a glimpse of a white ambulance and being made ready almost at once for the operation at 4,30 on my birthday. The night before was nearer Hell than I ever expect to get again. I was all alone and had to crawl upstairs on my hands & feet. Mrs. Litterst and Mrs. ~~Litterst~~ Werme came the next morning and said afterwards that I looked so ghastly that they never expected to see me alive again. I am as thin as a rail and think I will have to get a boyish bob to match it! We are not to be too happy in this world it seems for I was too happy this winter. I was just getting over the loss of my chauffeur when this had to come. It will take me a long time I fear to get strong again but my case was not half as bad as Williams. I think the expense is just awful and I have been fretting about that too. All have been lovely to me. Mad. & John, Charles & C., Theodore & Anne, Blanche, Uncle John & Nancy and Uncle Ira have been here much to my delight. My room as been like a bower of flowers. You, dear Mother, have sent me some lovely ones for which I thank you so much. Letter and telegrams were like rays of sunshine suddenly appearing in dark skyes. Much love to you both and to Edie,

Lovingly Marion.

12-6851

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[F5D11BK], Letter from Marion Estelle Edison to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, Thomas Alva Edison, March 24th, 1927

Title
[F5D11BK], Letter from Marion Estelle Edison to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, Thomas Alva Edison, March 24th, 1927

Author
Edison, Marion Estelle

Recipient

- Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)
- Edison, Thomas Alva

Mentioned

- Litterst, Mary J (Mrs Leopold H.)
- Miller, John Vincent
- Edison, Edith Clarissa

Date
1927-03-24

Type
Letter

Subject

- Edison-Miller family
- Finances (TAE and family)
- Travel (TAE and family)
- Health and medicine

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THE NORWALK GENERAL HOSPITAL
NORWALK, CONNECTICUT

Mar. 24th 1927

Dear Father, dear Mother,

At last the glorious day has come when I can leave ~~leave~~ the hospital but I am not as happy as I expected to be for I can hardly walk and besides the bills which are pouring in, I am worried how on earth Mrs. Sitterd is going to sleep on the sofa in the warmest room in the house. She is aged and rather set in her ways. She is so kind that she will not hear of my worrying about things but I am in doubt if she can stand it long. I have the address of a nurse who receives women who are convalescing into her home. I could try that if I find that Mrs. Sitterd cannot sleep. I could get a domestic nurse who would keep house for me but they will not attend to a furnace, thinking it below them so that makes that arrangement out of the question. Yesterday I saw my appendix and I can now understand how serious my case was. It was almost black and had rup-

12-6652

THE NORWALK GENERAL HOSPITAL
NORWALK, CONNECTICUT

tired. Of course I do not dare ask but what I do not understand is this — why was I not rushed to the hospital on the morning of the 17th when I first called the doctor instead of on the 18th? One day meant so much and I was ready and willing to do anything the doctor thought best. I thank you both for your kind telegram in answer to my letter. It did help me not to worry but I cannot get over the awful prices here in America. I will be most grateful to you, Father dear, if you will help me for no one seems willing to wait very long for their money. One nurse who left sick on account of illness I paid this morning as she said she needed the money to pay for her room. I cannot find out exactly what things will cost but I know some of the items. I have had a day & night nurse for 34 days, each nurse getting daily $8.00. My board & room cost $6.00 a day. What I cannot find out is how much the doctor will charge for the operation. My nurse tells me that he charged $125.00 for a clean (not a drain case) on a child. More I do not know. John has just phoned but as I am in bed I could not speak to him. I will phone him tomorrow morning as he wanted to speak to me. I have had few wishes since I came to the hospital, the one and almost the only one

12 — 6632

THE NORWALK GENERAL HOSPITAL
NORWALK, CONNECTICUT

was my New York paper. I have had excellent care and it will mean a great deal to me to have had the appendix removed as I ~~will~~ half ill and did not know what was the matter with me. This is such a selfish letter and I must say I am sick of myself and everything connected with my operation. I am sorry that you are disappointed in Florida this year for I know how you look forward to going down. My nurse is complaining of the length of this letter as I tire so easily. Much love to you both and to Edith

Ever affectionately
Marion.

12-6652

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[F5D11BL], Letter from Marion Estelle Edison to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, Thomas Alva Edison, March 28th, 1927

Title
[F5D11BL], Letter from Marion Estelle Edison to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, Thomas Alva Edison, March 28th, 1927

Author
Edison, Marion Estelle

Recipient

- Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)
- Edison, Thomas Alva

Mentioned

- Litterst, Mary J (Mrs Leopold H.)
- Tracy, Samuel Gateley

Date
1927-03-28

Type
Letter

Subject

- Edison-Miller family
- Health and medicine

Folder ID
F5D11-F

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https://edisondigital.rutgers.edu/iiif/2/F5D11BL/manifest

Mar. 28th 1927

R. D. 61
Norwalk
Conn.

file with Mrs. Strom

Dear Father, dear Mother,

It is simply wonderful to be home again and I am just delighted. The cottage is as warm as toast although it is very cold this morning and there is snow on the ground. I heard a blue bird this morning so spring is not far off although it might just as well be December by the looks of the landscape. Mrs. Sitterst is taking very good care of me and I am very comfortable except that the doctor put straps on me so tight that I can just manage to take breath and that is about all. I am able to walk much better too but I have to laugh when I go upstairs for I have to crawl up and Mrs. Sitterst has to wait for me at the top of the stairs to help me get up straight again. My arms are all right but I have almost no

12 – 6650

strength in my legs. This comes from the operation it seems for I have been in bed longer than this time and was all night in two or three days. I came home last Thursday evening having been in the hospital 3 4 days exactly. I was not very fortunate in my room there as it was not far from the operation rooms and some women became hysterical before they could get under the influence of the ether. Then I became all worked up over the awful cries of the little baby boys who were being circumcised without ether. This is being done so much that when I heard the women screaming in the delivery room I felt glad when a girl baby was born instead of a boy. The air too is bad in any hospital although they put me in the room I had because it was airy and near a roof garden. I do not think Dr. Tracey keeps one moment longer than was absolutely necessary and people say I was lucky not to have to stay longer. It just did not suit my thrifty soul to pay a night nurse $6.00 a night for coming in at 2 o'clock for a certain reason and again at 6 for the same reason. My nice little neighbor Mrs. Wemme had her baby this winter at the hospital and she says her room with food was $52.00 a week, that is more than the nurses told me. You ought to see the birds around here. There are dozens of them just outside of my window and no cat of mine is ever going

to harm them. It just set me wild last summer to see a cat who belonged to this cottage bring up snakes from the brook. I was in dread of her daring to take it down in my cellar as she had often done before I owned the place. We never dared to scare her for fear she would drop the snake near the house. I was sorry for the poor snake too for she had a hard job if the snake was large and would step on it in carrying it up the hill. I wonder why she did it so often for although they were small snakes I cannot believe she could eat them. This darling of a cat I could not live without so I said I wanted it for Mrs. Sitterly. She in her turn gave it to a grain store in Danbury where she can do all the hunting she likes. There is never going to be a cat again on this place if I can help it for I have never cared for cats either animals or humans. I am going down to the letter box with this letter but I suppose there will be an argument with Mrs. Sitterly as she is the boss now. Mother dear, I must tell you something which has just made me think that the doctors are an awful lot. Now some doctor told you to stop eating meat on account of your tendency to gout. When I showed my little finger to an Orange doctor (Dr. Parker's assistant)

he said it was gout and told me to cut out meat entirely which I have done as much as possible for over a year. Dr. Tracey says that the theory is quite exploded that gout comes from over-eating and particularly too much meat. She says it has been proved beyond doubt that it is an infection. Now what do you say to that Mother? Do you think it is possible or likely that he is right? Thank you so much for your long letter which I enjoyed reading very much. The p. o. sent it here so that I found it on my desk when I came home. Mrs. Bitterest had the house all ready for me and it seemed like paradise after the hospital. All I saw for five weeks was an old brown door so the change was lovely. I am wondering when you expect to return. The sun must be very warm for the snow is melting but winter may not be over as there has been awful snowstorms up here as late as April 10th. The snow is so beautiful in the country that we do not mind a long winter. Hope this will find you all well and enjoying yourselves. For old time's sake I would love to smell a little sprig of Orange blossoms. Do you suppose there is any to be had in those little boxes ready to send? Of course I do not want to put you to any trouble. Much love to all,

Affectionately
Marion.

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[F5D11BO], Letter from Marion Estelle Edison to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, December 31st, 1929

Title
[F5D11BO], Letter from Marion Estelle Edison to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, December 31st, 1929

Author
Edison, Marion Estelle

Recipient
Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)

Mentioned

- Litterst, Mary J (Mrs Leopold H.)
- Edison, Thomas Alva, Jr
- Miller, Ira Mandeville
- Earl, Elizabeth F
- Edison, Madeleine
- Oeser, Karl Oscar
- Miller, Mary Emily
- Edison, Beatrice Heyzer (Mrs Thomas A. Jr)

Date
1929-12-31

Type
Letter

Subject

- Edison-Miller family
- Travel (TAE and family)
- Health and medicine

Folder ID
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Document ID
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2

send Christmas greetings. Then I am painting my high kitchen stool, making a peach slip for a green lace dress and a whole basket of clothes are ready to be ironed. This ironing is the easiest job of all for to sit down at a window with a pretty view and just shove your wash into the electric mangel is about the best results for the least work of anything I know. I have had a delightful Christmas only of course in a quiet way and your lovely presents greatly added to the festive day for which I thank you ever and ever so much. Since the package of toilet articles came I have received a most beautiful quilt, the check which arrived the day before Christmas and the notice from Brentano that I am to receive "House and Garden" for another year. This "House and Garden" does not end it's journey when it gets to me. I always give it to Mrs. Litterst who later passes it on to a lonely neighbor. Certainly a good investment as to the joy it gives

R. D. 61
Norwalk
Conn.

Dec. 31st 1929

5 15 a. m.

Mother dear.

Not a light in any of the neighbor's houses nor have I even heard a rooster crow. People cannot understand why I get up at the crack of dawn or even earlier because they think I have nothing to do. Well they are very much mistaken if they but knew it for the longest day even is too short for all the things I have to do. Today there are all sorts of things winking at me and if callers dont bother me I am lucky if I get half of them done. Letters come first of course and then cards for people to whom you forgot to

12-6653

to others. I wonder [3] how you liked Xmas in Florida. It seems to me that it would be difficult to realize that it is Christmas at all. One Christmas I passed in Tanger with Mrs. Earl and I remember it as one of the least Christmasy Christmases I ever had had and I was not at all happy about it. It was never a case of where I wanted to be or go in those days but just what suited Mrs. Earl best was done. This however was the beginning of making my character less willful so that I made a better wife for Oscar! I did not enjoy her iron will at the time but I suppose it was all for the best. Now I have learned to doubt that my opinion is the only right one and usually ask the opinion of two freinds about anything of any importance. The majority rules even if they are both against me. Aunt Mary delighted me with a visit just before Christmas. She had been over to Westport to see Uncle Ira and was on her way home. As she had a friend in her car her visit was very short as it was a cold day. I was sorry for I am very fond [4] of her and living alone as I do and so far from the family it is a great treat to have any of them come to see me - barring Beatrice. I have tried my best for Tom's sake - but I do not like people who are insincere. Just as Aunt Mary says she dislikes [illegible] all which does not keep her from writing the most flowery letters with many "Dot Darlings and any amount of gushing flattery. I would not have mentioned all this but I know you are fond of Tom and I would not like you to think I neglect him. I am simply miserable when at their home and Beatrice's visits to me in town are about all I can stand. I am very fond of Tom and I am so delighted that he is so much more cheerful. People who saw the Menlo pretzle say that he has the saddest face they ever saw. Even when a little child he would say he was going to die soon. So unusual in a child. I was glad to hear through Madeleine that you are looking so much better. You looked really ill from over-work when I last saw you and it was high time for you to get a rest. I would love to hear from you if you could find time for a letter. Much love also to Father & again many thanks & Warm New Year affectionately Marion.

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[F5D11BQ], Letter from Marion Estelle Edison to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, February 24th, 1930

Title
[F5D11BQ], Letter from Marion Estelle Edison to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, February 24th, 1930

Author
Edison, Marion Estelle

Recipient
Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)

Mentioned

- Seminole Lodge and Fort Myers
- Edison, Blanche Travers (Mrs William L.)
- Edison, Thomas Alva

Date
1930-02-24

Type
Letter

Subject

- Edison-Miller family
- Celebrations (anniversaries, birthdays, holidays)
- Awards & honors/clubs & societies
- Travel (TAE and family)
- Health and medicine
- Motion pictures

Folder ID
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Microfilm ID
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Document ID
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R. D. 61
Norwalk
Conn.

Feb. 24th 1930

Dear Mother,

There are any number of things I have learned from you since I first knew you when I was a little girl of eleven but the latest thing seems the best of all. Instead of wasting valuable time lying in bed and waiting impatiently for what others think is the right time to get up I get up whenever I feel like it which is sometimes as early as three a.m.

12-6654

As my little home is always as warm as toast I slip into a negligé and start writing letters on my lap board. It is wonderful to gain so much time in this way for I am a slow writer and my German freinds are never satisfied with anything less than a long letter. Cards or short notes bring only reproaches. As they make a great fuss over birthdays in Germany I have several letters of thanks to write. I have just finished a long letter which I began at 4.45 and finished at 6.40. I wrote this to my friend just to show her why I cannot write such long letters very often. Two hours is a lot of time for a letter for I have my house work to do, go to town twice a week and have made several new freinds here that I see a lot of. Today I pulled up my shades to find a wall of thick pea soup fog surrounding the cottage. How endless

the writer seems this year. I had a delightful birthday in my own quiet way. Went to town, had a delicious lunch, then to see Mr. & Mrs. Johnson's wonderful travel film and then bought a pound of Shaaft's French mixture which are well worth the price they ask for them. Before I went to bed I had finished the box and on my next birthday I am going to treat myself to another one. If I were to eat all the sweets I wanted in a year or two I would not be able to make that turn upstairs at the head of the stairs unless I tore the wall down. Thank you so much for the pecan candy you so kindly sent me. There were very explicit directions sent with them how to keep them from getting moist & sticky. I laughed at that for no candy ever gets stale or sticky in this house. Mother dear I don't believe I ever thanked you for the nuts and candy which came some time after Christmas. I want to do so

now. A friend called before the candy was gone and she found Pe-can-dy so delicious that I had to give her the address in Georgia. I am having a wonderful winter and have not even had as much as a cold. I am very lucky in having found a neighbor's son who keeps my furnace going when I am away. It was dreadful to get to this icy house and having to start my furnace. It was never warm under two hours and I often took cold. I want to try out that oyster recipe before sending it to you but it seems impossible to get all the things together. I do not stay over night in New York any longer and always get home after the stores are closed so never do any shopping here. My grocer brings all of my food and all the meat I get is in town when I lunch there. It was most interesting to see the reel taken at Fort Meyers on Father's birthday. There is a News Reel in New York which last almost an hour and which I never miss. New photographs are shown every week. I suppose you have heard that poor little Blanche broke her arm. I have not seen them since last summer so I suppose I ought to go down. Mr. & Mrs. Sanby are in Florida. Love to you and Father affectionately Marion.

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[F5D11BQ1], Letter from Marion Estelle Edison to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, April 20th, 1930

Title
[F5D11BQ1], Letter from Marion Estelle Edison to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, April 20th, 1930

Editor's Notes
Supplied year, month, and day

Author
Edison, Marion Estelle

Recipient
Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)

Mentioned

- Scott, Clyde L
- Bogue, Lucy Durfee
- Edison, Thomas Alva

Date
1930-04-20

Type
Letter

Subject

- Edison-Miller family
- Travel (TAE and family)

Folder ID
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F5D11BQ1

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[4-20-1450]

Marion.

Datona Beach

Easter Sunday

Dear Mother,

This does not seem at all like Easter. No church bells, no new dresses and not even an Easter lily. I am sitting here in my hotel room behind my piece of voile which I always carry with me so as to prevent people looking in at my window. It is simply pinned across the curtains. I am lucky to have found such

12-6600

a comfortable hotel as all the first class ones are closed. I am staying here until tomorrow so that Scott could have a day off. He has some friends near here. I wish often that he did not look quite so gentlemanly. When he does not wear his livery he is taken for my husband and yesterday a little girl asked me if he were my brother. I don't think he is very good looking but education and breeding will show no matter in what position a man is. I feel that the high spots of this delightful trip are over. They were without question my visit to you and Father at Seminole Lodge and the

Tamiami Trail. My impressions of those two days were overwhelming. To see you and Father dear glad to see me, then the wonders of your beautiful garden and then oh joy, Tamiami Trail. I was simply fascinated by it and we were very lucky in what we saw. Going at 25 miles an hour is why we saw so much more than any one else I spoke to had seen on the trip. First and above all we saw a very handsome Indian sitting at the edge of the canal with his canoe like a statue. He was certainly a thing of beauty with his wonderful skin and colorful dress. I smiled at him through the back window which was

returned with a radiant smile showing beautiful teeth and bright, intelligent eyes. Scott saw seven alligators and I saw six, one of them as long as our car. Some people we told about this big creature went back to see it as it was about a mile from where we had lunch. The other wild creatures of the forest and the flowers made the trip far more interesting than I ever thought it was going to be. Usually it is the other way around. Enclose the card upon which Mme Tommie's address is written. Why not have a corset for dressy occasions and wear from boneless one for every day? Her laces are of rubber too so I do not mind her corsets now as I can work in them better than I could in corsets from Van Orden's. Tomorrow we start for the north but make a detour in Kentucky to see the caves. Much love also to Father dear.

Please remember me to Miss Boyd. Affectionately Marion.

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[F5D11BR], Letter from Marion Estelle Edison to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, May 8th, 1930

Title
[F5D11BR], Letter from Marion Estelle Edison to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, May 8th, 1930

Author
Edison, Marion Estelle

Recipient
Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)

Mentioned

- Scott, Clyde L
- Oeser, Karl Oscar
- Edison, Mary Stilwell (Mrs Thomas A.)
- Edison, Thomas Alva

Date
1930-05-08

Type
Letter

Subject

- Edison-Miller family
- Celebrations (anniversaries, birthdays, holidays)
- TAE health

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Main Ave.
Norwalk
Conn.

May 8th 1930

Mother dear,

Mother's Day is near and I do not want to let it pass this year without showing you how much I appreciate your kindness to me when I was in Fort Meyers. Please try to believe that having hardly known any other mother I am attached to you. You were my ideal as a child and a young girl of an exquisitely beautiful and sweet woman. I remember saying to Fanny Bisson, my little New York friend, that all I wanted you to do was to sit still and let me look at

12-6655

you. Not my own mother inspired the two great loves of my life but Father dear did in my youth as in my later life and then came Oscar. What I can truly say is that I am very much attached to you and admire you more than any other woman I know. This makes it doubly hard to bear when you say anything to hurt my feelings. I am sure you do not mean to hurt my feeling so but after some of the blows that fate has dealt me I am perhaps oversensitive. In the future I will try to get over to Elsmont on Sunday for I suppose I have tried your patience by coming weekdays when you are so busy. It seems a pity that you have to work so hard when at home at Elsmont. That lovely place ought to be a haven of rest for you. Instead I find you tired out when then and looking exhausted. You were looking years younger when I saw you at Seminole Lodge and seemed

not even a little bit tired. Life would be just too wonderful if it could always be as on my delightful trip to Florida so fate gave me a slap or two when I arrived home. A neighbor who lives back of my cottage owns the property next to my driveway. She set fire to her leaves on her side of the stone wall in my absence and as always happens my leaves were set afire too, burning not less than five shrubs upon which I have been showering my tenderest care for four years. I was all broken up over this loss. Besides that we have been over-worked as there is so much to be done around the place. The money I saved on my trip I invested in shrubs. Among them is something new to me — a Chinese shrub called "Devils Stick. It is something like bamboo, has large leaves and a big white flower at the top. It looks they say very tropical. Probably you know what they are. Two neighbors gave me some really worthwhile shrubs so that it seems to me that we have done nothing but work in the garden since we returned. Scott is excellent. I must tell you something which almost sounds like a joke. While his mistress has a Ford he is going to buy a six cylinder car for his own use. My friends in Germany will either laugh or feel like fainting when I break that piece of news to them. As it is dreadly hot I am writing this in the cool of the morning. Thank you for forwarding my letters. Glad to hear you and that adored father of mine are well. I washed his handkerchief yesterday with my silks undies & stocking and will return it as soon as I have darned and ironed it. I hope some time to have a smaller electrical machine for such things as mine down cellar is one of the largest on the market. I am sure you will have a happy Mother's Day & receive many tokens of love. Much love to you and Father. Please excuse haste. Affectionately Marion.

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[F5D11BR1] Letter, 1930-1931

Title
[F5D11BR1] Letter, 1930-1931

Author
Edison, Marion Estelle

Recipient
Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)

Mentioned

- New York Tribune
- Edison, Thomas Alva

Date
1930-1931

Type
Letter

Subject

- Edison-Miller family
- TAE health
- Photographs and autographs
- Newspapers, books, other publications
- General economic and business conditions
- Health and medicine

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NEW YORK POLYCLINIC
MEDICAL SCHOOL AND HOSPITAL
341-353 WEST FIFTIETH STREET.
NEW YORK
ORGANIZED 1881

OFFICE OF
A. A. JALLER
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The Drs. Mann's letters

Wednesday

Mother dear,

How kind of you to send me the lovely flowers. Max Schling is certainly an artist and I never pass his shop without stopping to enjoy the beauty of his arrangement of flowers. Thanks so very much for thinking of me. I am bored almost to tears and needed a little cheering up. A hospital is such a depressing place. The roof is the best part of this high establishment and going as I do so early in the morning I get away from the deathly pale patients. The roof is a perfect copy of a ship at sea. The fog horns blowing on the Hudson yesterday morning and sitting in a steamer chair without a thing in sight made the delusion complete. There is a young Scotch sailor up there

12-6677

who keeps things delightfully clean. I must write[2] my German friends about it for the idea is so unusual and attractive. I can hardly wait to go home and am counting the hours until Saturday. There is a poor woman next door who hiccoughs for almost an hour at a time. As all the doors are open I get the full benefit of these spells which are nerve racking coming as they do so often. I am so dreadfully sorry for her too. Two doctors have found that I have neither high blood nor hardening of the arteries so that's that. Evidently the Norwalk doctor had to find something the matter with me so as to give me treatment and help bring back prosperity (to her). What they did find is uric acid and nerves in a very bad condition. The first is not so hard to get back to normal but unless I am very much mistaken the latter will be my cross as long as I live and must be borne no matter how hard. I could stand nervousness without murmuring if it did not affect my sleep. Dear Mother I want you to do me a favor. I have taken a great fancy to the photograph of Father which appeared in last Sundays Herald-Tribune. It is the darlingest picture of him which I have seen in a long time. If you have any idea where to get it would you mind having your secretary have one sent to me C.O.D.? I would then have it framed for my room next winter. I will never feel at home unless I have taken pictures and other little belongings to make my hotel room seem a little more homey. Lots of love to you and

Father dear affectionately

Attribution

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[F5D11BS], Letter from Marion Estelle Edison to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, January 15th, 1931

Title
[F5D11BS], Letter from Marion Estelle Edison to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, January 15th, 1931

Author
Edison, Marion Estelle

Recipient
Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)

Mentioned

- Scott, Clyde L
- Edison, Madeleine

Date
1931-01-15

Type
Letter

Subject

- Edison-Miller family
- Social customs, norms, values

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F5D11BS

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15 January 1931

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Main Ave.
Norwalk
Conn.

Jan. 15th 1931

Mother dear,

Thank you so much for sending back my gloves. After I left I thought I might possibly have left them on the hall table so perhaps you found them where we wrapped up the cherries. They arrived in a perfect condition and have

12-6661

a sunny place on the wide window sill of my dining room which faces the south. It did not look a bit like the dusty plants one sees in the florist's windows and I am trying to keep it clean and bright by giving it a rapid shower every day. As usual I am up at five and doing this, instead of lying in bed worrying because I cannot sleep, makes me much more satisfied with my day when I look back at it in the evening. If we are very busy I think letters are the things we are most likely to neglect. I am not sure however that such a long day does not make me still more nervous. I am wondering if I am not getting on other people's nerves. Last Saturday at the opera I felt I ought to apologize to Mrs. Rodgers for being so fidgety. You have the same reposeful, quiet manner you had when I first knew you. At the time I said to Mary Bradley that you were so very beautiful that I liked your not talking much, for all I wanted you to do was to sit still and let me look at you. You know Mother dear we do not see ourselves as others see us so I would like to put up my opinion against your dressmakers's as to becoming colors for you. The lovely dress you wore on Christmas day was not anywhere near as becoming as

the dress trimmed with white you had on last Sunday. A little light color near our faces, ~~are~~ always flattering. Although I too love old rose, strawberry and the many other shades of red I find them too trying to wear. Ido hope Mme Gilis will keep me for I have put them to as little trouble as possible. I never complain when the models are on the road nor do I expect them to send me my dresses. Scott goes up with a box and gets them. I send a check for them too by the next mail so I am hoping I will have better luck than my friend Mrs. Whitehead. I went down with them yesterday, had lunch with Mary Bradley and then to the matinee. She is the sweetest girl she always has been and I am sorry I see so little of her. I am going to see Madeleine Saturday before the gala. I should be nice if you happened to be there at the same time. Much love affectionately Marion

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[F5D11BS1], Letter from Marion Estelle Edison to Thomas Alva Edison, January 1931

Title
[F5D11BS1], Letter from Marion Estelle Edison to Thomas Alva Edison, January 1931

Editor's Notes
Supplied year and month

Author
Edison, Marion Estelle

Recipient
Edison, Thomas Alva

Mentioned
Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)

Date
1931-01-00

Type
Letter

Subject

- Edison-Miller family
- Travel (TAE and family)
- Health and medicine

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Norwalk

Sunday morning
5,20 o'clock

Father darling,

This is some of the writing paper which was a Christmas gift so don't think I have gone into mourning. Although this is Sunday morning and most people are having what they consider the luxury of lying in bed late, I do not consider it one but am delighted to be up and doing. Of course I am not dressed yet but I have already slipped into shoes, stockings and a negligee, have turned on the furnace draft, opened my bed to air and have had about a three minutes walk to freshen me

12-6659

up out on the back porch. This is the first morning I have not had the moonlight for my morning constitutional in a long time but I have a powerful electric bulb which makes it out there as light as day. Colonial houses may be all right and are very fashionable but for solid comfort give me a house like this one. The porches add greatly to my comfort - the front one is far enough back from the road to be nice to sit on all summer and large enough to entertain friends - the back one is just as large, making it ideal for the morning hours when preparing vegetables or fruits for luncheon or for serving. Another joy is that I am never worried about the weather on wash days as I can hang my whole wash on my back porch and get it dry by evening no matter how hard it rains. When a man wanted to buy the cottage for a tempting sum I told him to come again later and speak with my heirs. I hope you received

my Christmas letter[3] as I did not want you to think I would let Christmas go by without sending you all sorts of good wishes for Christmas and the New Year. This is a letter to say good bye as I cannot make you understand if I try to talk to you. It is a great trial that I cannot talk to you. I cannot help but think of old days when I could talk to you. I often long to hear you read "Evangeline" again as you did in the days of my childhood. After an examination by the doctor there has come a note of seriousness in my usually so cheerful state of mind. I see one cannot bluff old Dame nature. No fooling her into thinking I am between 35 & 40. As I have hardening of the arteries I think I had better give up my thirty year old "boy friends" and replace them by men of years of discretion. As I am so very strong and full of vitality I always thought I would be one of the 100 year old Edisons but my chances are not so good now and besides what difference does it really make? We don't know we[4] are dead and there is no insomnia on that side of the fence. I do not think I will see you and Mother in Florida this year although I would love to go like last year when the opera season is over. It was really nicer last spring than when it is so crowded. Next summer I am in for a great treat – a trip to California, something I have been looking forward to ever since I came home. That will be all the travelling I ought to do in 1931. Florida will still be there in 1932 and gives me something else delightful to look forward to. Excuse this letter being written in such a rush. We are off for Glenmark at 10 o'clock as I am flitting going to friends in Newark. It is a long trip so we always have to give a day to it. Good bye Father dear. Have a nice time in Florida and enjoy the loveliness of your beautiful home and the wonderful Florida climate. Heaps of love and good wishes.

Devotedly

Marion.

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[F5D11BT], Letter from Marion Estelle Edison to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, March 7th, 1931

Title
[F5D11BT], Letter from Marion Estelle Edison to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, March 7th, 1931

Author
Edison, Marion Estelle

Recipient
Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)

Mentioned

- Scott, Clyde L
- Stilwell, Alice
- Edison, Beatrice Heyzer (Mrs Thomas A. Jr)
- Edison, Thomas Alva

Date
1931-03-07

Type
Letter

Subject

- Edison-Miller family
- Awards & honors/clubs & societies
- Travel (TAE and family)
- TAE name
- Newspapers, books, other publications
- Labor

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F5D11BT

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Hotel Edison
FORTY-SEVENTH STREET, WEST OF BROADWAY
NEW YORK

Mar. 7th 1931

My dear Mother,

Just to see what it was like on account of it's being named after Father dear I had them show me over the hotel and found it very attractive. Not only are their prices very reasonable but I have found a peach of a room which I will always try to get when I stay in New York over night. As I had to come to town yesterday, have been invited by Mrs. Spring for luncheon today and tomorrow to the opera, I thought I would stay here instead of the five hour drive

12 – 6657

back and forth every day. Schott is coming for me tomorrow evening as besides my suit case and hat box, I always take up a young neighbor who is working his way through college here. He dislikes New York, so almost always goes up to his Norwalk home for the week end. For New York this is an exceptionally lovely room and certainly not dear at $4.00 a day. This room is south-west and on the eighteenth floor. Being a corner room I have plenty of light and air and as I sit here at the western window I have a superb view of the Hudson. The southern window is double and no one across the way to bother one. No drilling near so that all the noise I get is like the humming of a beehive. I am quite surprised at myself liking anything in New York except women's clothes in general and the theatres. I want to thank you so much for your kind birthday greetings. The day was a quiet one as usual and the only presents I received were

from Aunt Alice and Scott. Fancy Scott giving me a French telephone. He is used to having anything he wants and I do not think he is always going to be a chauffeur. I am not likely ever to get one again as good as he is. He has been with me a year next month. I am over the scare I had about Mme Silis. She has started two new dresses for me. I have come to the conclusion that it is not as much Mme Silis herself as her dressmakers who do not like the retail trade. It is easier to have dresses cut in different sizes to make up and send off than to fit people. I can quite understand their standpoint. I did not dare show my annoyance yesterday that they wrote me to come to be fitted when only one dress was ready to be tried on. I would not bother with them if ready made dresses fitted me for there are plenty of pretty dresses in this city being the centre of women's apparel trade for all the country. There were some perfectly darling pictures in the papers of you and Father taken on his birthday. You both look as well and happy as can be. It is quite unusual that printed photographs are so good. I dont like to be very rude if I can help it so after all I went with Beatrice to see her sister who is living at the Bristol. I was surprised to find her quite nice, good English, decent make up, quite good manners and sincere I think. From the very first I have disliked Beatrice for her lack of this latter quality. I am glad that the long winter is almost over and as I have heard that there are blue birds about I think I must get up the bird houses out of the cellar soon so as to be ready for them. I have several bird cafeterias and the chickadees and woodpeckers have been my best customers. I suppose you are longing to be home again for spring's awakening is certainly the most beautiful time of the year. I will hear by the papers or through some member of the family when you are returning and will go over to see you as soon as you return. Ever so much love also to that adored father of mine

Affectionately Marion.

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[F5D11BU], Letter from Marion Estelle Edison to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, April 14th, 1931

Title
[F5D11BU], Letter from Marion Estelle Edison to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, April 14th, 1931

Author
Edison, Marion Estelle

Recipient
Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)

Mentioned

- Oeser, Friedrich
- Scott, Clyde L
- Edison, Thomas Alva

Date
1931-04-14

Type
Letter

Subject

- Edison-Miller family
- Travel (TAE and family)
- Photographs and autographs
- Newspapers, books, other publications
- Politics and government
- Health and medicine

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Danbury Road
Norwalk
Conn.

April 14th 1931

My dear Mother,

This paper does not look very cheerful but Nesbi, the friend who gave it to me, writes that it is not half mourning so I must take his word for it although I am only half convinced. I was in for a delightful surprise day before yesterday when I came home and found the little box from Fort Meyers. The dainty little necklace is so pretty that of course I was delighted and wore it the very next day with a green dress as the light green and red-brown were so very pretty together. I usually wear pearls but a necklace like this

12-6658

is a nice change. Thank you so much, Mother dear, for your kind thought. I wonder if I wrote you that I have some new plans. I am sick and tired of those long cold drives back and forth from New York in winter although in summer I do not mind so much. As I have found such a wonderful room in the Hotel Edison with plenty of air and sunshine I have decided to try to spend next winter in town. I say try for good reasons for I may have to give my plan up after a week or two. My doctor seems to think that living alone as I do it would take my mind off my insomnia to go away when the long winter evenings come. He is right when he says that it is a wonderful city for music and lectures and he advises me to take my walks in Central Park or Riverside Drive and keep off the noisy streets as much as possible. Any way I am going to try it. I have become a member of the Women's National Republican

Club which will give me a new interest. The clubhouse is now next to Tiffany's on 37th St. but we are to have a new one soon near 50th St. & Fifth Ave. I know very little about politics as yet but I will let others do the talking and I will do the listening and so I will soon know a lot more than I do now. I am too shy ever to be very active in such a club but they count mine that in me for the other members are just bursting with the thousand and one things they want to say. It is a wonder they don't limit the time for speech making in more cases than they do. I do not want Scott to wait until fall to look for a new position as it will be much more difficult towards winter to get a good place. If you happen to hear of any one who needs a chauffeur please let me have their address. Perhaps Mrs. Howe a friend may take him later in the summer when her new house is finished as he is such a handy man around the house and grounds but she was not certain which rather worries me for there is so much unemployment. She is very busy now planting a new lawn in front of the house which will greatly improve the looks of the place as it was very much run down. The country is beginning to look lovely and it seems such a pity that you and Father miss this lovely time of the year. Well anyway it is beautiful where you are and that must be a consolation. I hope you are both as well as you look in your pictures. Fritz, my brother-in-law, sent me one of the largest pictures of you and Father dear I ever saw in a paper. With love to you both and again thanks many times for the lovely necklace.

Affectionately

Marion.

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[F5D11BV1], Letter from Marion Estelle Edison to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, July 3rd, 1931

Title
[F5D11BV1], Letter from Marion Estelle Edison to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, July 3rd, 1931

Editor's Notes
Supplied year, month, and day

Author
Edison, Marion Estelle

Recipient
Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)

Mentioned

- Oeser, Friedrich
- Berger, Clara
- Scott, Clyde L
- Oeser, Eugenie
- Oeser, Karl Oscar
- Hoover, Herbert Clark
- Edison, Thomas Alva

Date
1931-07-03

Type
Letter

Subject

- Edison-Miller family
- Politics and government
- Foreign affairs

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I have a family of blue birds and of orioles in the big oak tree at the side of the cottage and warm in the
Danbury Road
Norwalk
Conn.

Friday

Dear Mother,

The enclosed card is sending you my best wishes for your birthday. Your birthday coming as it does two days after the Fourth is so easy to remember. I have so often forgotten my other little mother's birthday that now that you introduced me to

12 - 6660

those most helpful little engagement calendars I put her birthday down three weeks in advance which gives me time to buy a card and get it to her. Mrs. Oser wrote me a few words on one of Fritz's cards the other day which were quite remarkable for a woman almost ninety. She is in bed in a sanatorium near Leipzig where she will have to stay until the end. As she will not receive Oscar's wife he does not go near her. This is really her only sorrow for she is happy and cheerful because of her great faith in God. I remember how often she used the expression when making plans of any kind if God will. She was very sweet and kind to me and

I will always think of her with affection. My brother-in-law writes that life in Germany is like sitting on a keg of gunpowder which you are in fear of exploding. Bless President Hoover if he can help this sick world to get well again. Twice I started for Oranges since you came home but got no farther than New York. The heat first wilted me and I started for home. Although at my own cost I put three advertisements in the paper recommending Scott as a chauffeur and his name has been put down at several agencies he has not been able to get a position. He has gone up to Maine on a ten days' ~~vacation~~ ~~transition~~ and

hopes to find something there but I doubt it. Such a capable man as he is sure to find something but I am afraid it will not be a job to his liking. I would never have told him my plans for next winter if I had not thought it the right thing to do so that he could look for a position as chauffeur at a favorable time of year. I certainly want to see you and Father dear soon so I will just have to brave the heat and get over to Orange before you leave for Chautauqua & some cooler place than Orange. It seems a pity that you have only a few months in which to enjoy beautiful Glenmont. Much love also to that adored father of mine.

Affectionately
Marion.

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[F5D11BW], Letter from Marion Estelle Edison to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, January 21st, 1932

Title
[F5D11BW], Letter from Marion Estelle Edison to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, January 21st, 1932

Editor's Notes
Supplied year

Author
Edison, Marion Estelle

Recipient
Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)

Mentioned

- McCarter and English
- Edison, Charles
- Edison, Thomas Alva, Jr
- Edison, William Leslie
- Miller, Mary Emily
- Edison, Carolyn Hawkins (Mrs Charles)
- Edison, Thomas Alva

Date
1932-01-21

Type
Letter

Subject

- Edison-Miller family
- TAE will and estate

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Hotel Victoria
West 51st St.
New York City

Jan. 21st 1931

ack.

Dear Mother,

A phone call is often most unsatisfactory on account of the noise so I thought I would write instead. You have probably already heard the good news which means so much to all of us for Father's sake. Of course the harm which has already been done can never be eliminated. The will fuss was most unwisely worded and has tarnished Father's fame for all times.

12-6662

Kathleen Norris' article about it last Sunday we can only hope will be the last of its kind. The whole thing has been almost a tragedy. I have done my best to use my influence but bad influence was more powerful with Will than mine so that until a week ago I was prepared for the worst. Things looked brighter when I was in Wilmington, brighter still at the meeting of Tom, Will and me in my room here and brightest of all when Will & Charles shook hands in Mr. McCouters office. I consider the last three months as the most miserable of my life. Today my engagement calendar is black with engagements but tomorrow I can find time to call on Aunt Mary & Carolyn. Poor Carolyn, she certainly is having atrocious luck. Everyone, including myself, thinks my room looks lovely so this will be my address for some time. If you are ever near here come up for a look. affectionately Madison.